

a recipe for DISASTER

Are celebrity chefs spreading themselves too thinly?

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No 3,536

WOMEN IN THE WAR ZONE

How Martha Gelihorn inspired a generation

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MI6 in plot to kill Saddam

Tuesday 17 February 1998 4Sp

Exclusive By Patrick Cockburn

APLOT by MI6, Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, to topple President Saddam Hussein collapsed in ignominy, triggering one of the worst defeats in its history.

The coup, organised by intelligence officers in Amman, Jordan was crushed by the Iraqi leader, who executed as many as 80 conspirators

and arrested hundreds more. "The revelation will be widely seen as contradicting British and American claims that they are not planning to topple the leadership in Baghdad. They have claimed repeatedly that the only issue at stake is the entry of UN weapons inspec-

the CIA joined in trying to foment It is led by Dr lyad Mohammed a military coup against President Saddam in Iraq.

Members of the Iraqi opposition say that the organisation chosen by MI6 and the CIA to organise the revolt in the Iraqi army is notorious for being riddled with informers.

CIA agents, angry that the White House stopped them from backing an attempt to assassinate President Saddam or mount a military attack on him, have confirmed for the first time to the Los Angeles Times that the attempted coup was a joint operation by MI6 and the ClA.

The two intelligence agencies chose a group called the Iraqi National Accord, recruited from Iraqi army, party and intelligence officers, as the instrument through which to tors. Yet 18 months ago MI6 and organise a military coup in Baghdad.

Alawi, a former member of Iraq's ruling Baath party, who has lived in London since 1971.

Other sources say that the London station of the CIA along with MI6 played a key role in choosing the Accord to overthrow the Iraqi government. With money from the intelligence agencies it moved its

Saddam.

Other experienced opponents of the government in Baghdad say the conspiracy never stood a chance of success. One, who did not want like this cannot be stage-managed from the outside, as in the 1960s. headquarters to Jordan in early Saddam has thirty years' experience of senior officers in an elite forma-

reputation for containing many Iraqi double agents. The military conspiracy in Baghdad was crushed before it got off the ground. Dr Alawi had publicised his intention to start his name published, said: "A coup a mutiny in the Iraqi army. Starting in late June and early July 1996, there was a wave of arrests and executions

The CEA'S attempt to overthrow

President Saddam has received some publicity in the US, but the role of MI6 in the failed coup has hitherto been kept secret. Few other operations by British intelligence have produced such immediately fatal results for its participants since MI6 arranged in the late 1940s for Albanian anti-Communists to be sent back to their homeland under the supervision of Kim Philby.

MI6 appears to have played a lesser role in an earlier attempt by the CIA to destabilise the government of President Saddam through building up opposition in Iraq's three Kurdish provinces from which the Iraqi army had withdrawn. Here,

1996 and tried to recruit serving Iraqi in keeping power." He added that tion. The number of those killed is a local team of CIA agents was preofficers to act against President the Iraqi National Accord has a bad not known but may be as high as pared to carry out a much more aggressive campaign against the Iraqi leader than Washington was prepared to authorise.

So out of control did the CIA operation is Kurdistan become that the White House only learned what was happening because American codebreakers had intercepted the communications of the Iranian intelligence. From this they learned of their own men's involvement in an assassination plot against the Iraqi leader. They were immediately ordered by Washington not go give support to the conspiracy.

So frustrated did the acting head of the CIA become with some of his officers that he had them investigated by the FBI for trying to murder President Saddam.

UN Secretary-General may go on peace mission to Baghdad SIGNS grew yesterday that the UN Secretary-General, Kofi there to defuse the showdown. Mr Annan is likely to

Baghdad to try to avert a military strike against Iraq in the al-Sahhaf, in Paris tomorrow. long-running dispute over UN arms inspections.

Mr Annan and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council were to meet in New York to seek agreement on proposals that he could take Security Council.

Annan, might make a personal eleventh-hour mission to meet the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mohammed Said

Diplomats said the United States and Britain were prepared to support a mission by Mr Annan, provided that he was given clear "bottom-line conditions" by the

Lovey-dovey: lan Holm, voted best actor at the Laurance Olivier Awards, kissing Zoe Wannamaker at the ceremony in London yesterday. Holm won for his performance in King Lear, soon to be repeated for television, and Wannamker for Electro Full story, page 3 Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid between people and to the way

The computer that can hack into your emotions

By Nicholas Schoon in Philadelphia

FRUSTRATED? Augry? No one understands you? Never puters are being taught to sense different human emotions.

emotions. She and her students have already built a variety of inconspicuous devices for people to wear which collect data on pulse and breathing rate, blood pressure and overall states of arousal - all important cues to our emotional state.

Dr Picard's team, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, has, for instance, built "confusion-sensing glasses". They have detectors which can pick up electrical activity in the eyebrow muscles resulting from the slightest eyebrow-wrinkling, caused

when we furrow our brows. Dr Picard told the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting that emotions were fundamental to communication

we reason and take decisions. Psychologists have shown that patients lacking emotions are unable to make rational decisions; if we don't feel sadness

learn from our mistakes? To have really effective The work is being done by communication between peo-Dr Rosalind Picard, who runs ple and machines they will the world's first research group have to be programmed to es to our emofirst detect to detect and respond to human tions, use the data to compute what state we are in and finally devise the correct response, Dr Picard said

Within a couple of decades we are likely to be holding conversations with them, and the play of emotions - even if it is only subtle - is essential to good conversation. "We're talk-

ing about machines that really can adapt to you, just like a person adapts to you," she said.

The cues could be changes in voice, or expression. Almind, get a computer. Com- or frustration how are we to ready a computer has been programmed to recognise half a dozen extreme emotions, based on facial movements.

Dr Picard's group has been concentrating on physiological data, including how well the skin conducts electricity, which is what lie detectors measure. There is also the prospect of computers being able to pick up cues to our emotions when we touch them. Many of us, perhaps appropriately now spend much more time touching computers at work than we do touching people.

Inquiry into mobile phone health risk

By Charles Arthur, Science Editor

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A GROUP of 18 volunteers will start tests soon to see whether using mobile phones can affect short-term memory, decisionmaking and reaction time. The trials at the Bristol Roy-

al Infirmary are part of a £100,000 investigation by the Department of Health to try to establish whether the microwave radiation emitted by hand-held phones could cause cancers or other illnesses.

The study also involves tests on rais at the Chemical and Biological Research Centre at Porton Down to examine whether mobile phone radiation causes "learning deficits". Dr John Tattersall, who is leading the research, will also carry out parallel research to evaluate the public's attitude to the risk posed by mobile phones.

The first fears over mobile phone technology were triggered by a 1993 US lawsuit on behalf of a women who claimed

to have developed a tumour behind her left ear after using a mobile phone. Since then, a number of similar multi-million dollar lawsuits have been filed in the US; none has succeeded.

Between 1979 and 1991, the latest year for which full figures are available, the incidence of malignant primary brain tumours increased by 20 per cent in men and women in England and Wales - from about 5 to 6.2 per 100,000. But David Secher of the Cancer Research Campaign said: "The majority of that rise is among the over-70s, who we might assume are not mobile phone users."

Alan Preece, the medical physicist who will be overseeing the tests at Bristol, said yesterday: "I would be quite surprised if there was any effect on the brain from using a mobile phone. I wouldn't expect the small amount of energy that gets absorbed by the brain to do anything but heat it up slightly, and that would be dissipated just like any other warming."

Ministers poised to expel Sinn Fein from peace talks

By David McKittrick in Belfast and Alan Murdoch in Dublin

THE British and Irish governments are poised to suspend Sinn Fein from the multi-party talks because of the IRA's assumed involvement

in two Belfast killings. The issue dominated yesterday's talks, the first session in Dublin rather than Belfast, but the matter was unresolved last night. The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, formally moved what is described as an indictment of Sinn Fein, citing the charge that it breached the Mitchell

principles of non-violence. This brought the scheduled business of the talks, consideration of new north-south links, to a halt. But after hours of argument the chairman, former US senator George Mitchell, had not uncovered enough common ground on how to deal with the charge.

Ulster's toll of violence LOYALISTS were responsible for linked to the IRA. The figures

killing 13 people, and Republicans two people, between 20 July and 25 january, the Government said last night. The figures do not include the two murders in Belfast last week which police have

say loyalists were also responsible for 51 shootings, six bombings and 36 assaults; Republicans were said to be behind 20 bombings, 21 shootings, and 26 assaults. ers yesterday mounted a rear-

guard battle which helped de-

lay resolution of the issue.

The Republicans say their po-

sition is different to that of the

UDP in that the UDA admit-

ted killings, while the IRA

has declared its truce is intact.

would be against natural jus-

tice, and that even temporary

exclusion would endanger the

peace process. Later Mr

Adams said: "I am absolutely

pissed off with trying to make

this thing work and those who

have no interest in making it

work seize upon two men be-

ing killed to exploit it and bring

Sinn Fein says expulsion

The talks are scheduled to reconvene this afternoon.

Last night the most likely outcome appeared to be exclusion of Sinn Fein until around 10 March, in line with the precedent of the Ulster Democratic Party, suspended after its parent organisation. the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, admitted three killings.

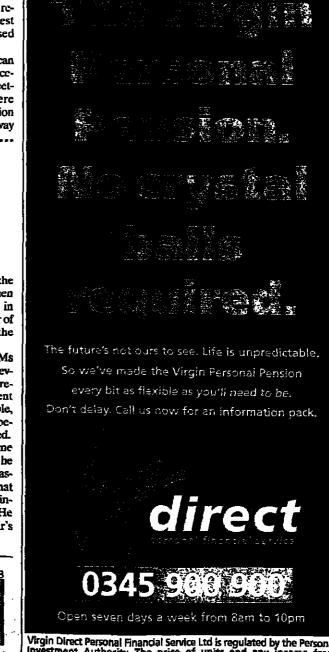
Such a timetable would avoid complications arising from a possible visit to the US of the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, for St Patrick's Day celebrations on 17 March. He and other Sinn Fein lead-

this process down." As the talks were going on, four men were charged in Belfast in connection with the murder of Robert Dougan, one of the killings in contention.

It is understood Ms Mowlam advanced no fresh evidence against Sinn Fein, relying on last week's statement by the RUC Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, that he believed the IRA was involved.

Last night the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, said he had received a personal assurance from Tony Blair that there was evidence of IRA involvement in the killings. He said he trusted Mr Blair's words.





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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 . FULL CONTENTS, P2



Straw opts for press freedom

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE balance between individual privacy and press freedom media by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, last night.

Opening a Commons debate on the Human Rights Bill, Mr Straw gave the strongest possible assurance to press critics that the legislation would not be used to introduce a backdoor privacy law. But the Bill - which enshrines the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, "bringing rights home" from Strasbourg to the domestic courts - will give teeth to the Press Complaints Commission's self-regulatory code of conduct.

A government source said that officials were in discussion with the commission to see strengthened, with the possibility of fines being built into the ment to the Bill, containing "an system of self-regulation.

The deal to change the balance of the Bill more firmly in favour of the press was struck at a meeting last Friday between Mr Straw and Lord Wakeham, the commission chairman.

Mr Straw told the House: support for the freedom of the media and our opposition to a statutory privacy law."

But he recognised press congovernment and Parliament "to possibly can." To fulfil that

duty, a framework of amendments to the Bill had been agreed with Lord Wakeham, a former Tory minister.

Under the European Conwas tilted firmly in favour of the vention on Human Rights, there were two articles of particular concern: "The Article 10 right to freedom of expression, and the Article 8 right to respect for private and family life."

The Home Secretary said it was worth pointing out that in practice, the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights had extensively used the convention "to buttress and uphold the freedom of the press against efforts by the state to restrict it."

Those European judgments, would have to be taken into account by the judges in this country he said, but Mr Straw accepted that there was the whether the code could be need for further reassurance.

He had agreed to an amendexplicit provision on the face of the Bill that, in any case in which a person applies for relief or a remedy on Article 8 grounds related to respect for private life, and the granting of a remedy would raise issues concerning an Article 10 convention right, the "We have repeatedly stated our court must have particular regard to freedom of expression."

Mr Straw said the amendments would "constitute a useful signal and reminder to the cerns, and saw it as the duty of United Kingdom courts" that the balance was tilted against privacy assuage those anxieties if we and in favour of media freedom.

Leading article, page 16



Against the Ayatollah's declaration: Robin Cook greeting Salman Rushdie at the Foreign Office yesterday

Cook vows to fight threat to Rushdie

SALMAN Rushdie was given public government backing yesterday when he was permitted to hold his first press conference in the ornate surroundings of the Foreign Office.

While Douglas Hurd, when Foreign Secretary, met Salman Rushdie behind tightly closed doors, the novelist yesterday sat next to Robin Cook as the minister pledged to put pressure on Iran to withdraw the death sentence on him.

years after the Ayatollah

Khotneini issued the fatwa from our European partners," against Mr Rushdie over his book The Satanic Verses.

Following the signal from the Prime Minister, who welcomed Mr Rushdie to dinner at Chequers on Saturday, the anniversary of the fatwa, Mr Cook made clear his personal sense of outrage and his determina-

"I have given [Mr Rushdie] an assurance that working to remove the threat to his life will be a central priority of this Government's policy in relation The meeting came nine to Iran and I'll be working to get the maximum support for that

17 30 14:32

Mr Cook said.

The Government is to ask for a written assurance from the current more moderate Iranian government that it, unlike its predecessor, would not further the farwa against the novelist.

And it is to encourage European support to secure the removal of the \$2.5m (£1.6m) bounty upon Mr Rushdie's

Standing beside Mr Cook and beneath a painting of St Cecilia, martyred for refusing to renounce her Christian faith, Mr Rushdie, 50, contrasted the ac-

tion with that of the previous Conservative administration. "I do have a real sense of a new drive behind this issue. I'm

very grateful," he said. Mr Rushdie said he suspected the Tories had sent out "nods and winks" to Europe that a low-key approach was the hest way to tackle his predicament and he hoped Europeans would now follow the more

positive lead being offered. Mr Rushdie said he remained proud of The Satanic Verses and he believed few British Muslims were now op-

TOMORROW

FASHION

OUT OF THE CLOSET WITH WAYNE HEMINGWAY

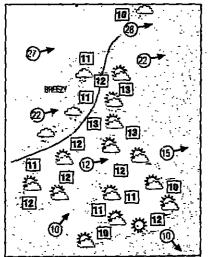
THE EYE

MEET PAUL WILSON, THEART COLLECTOR WHO WON'T HAVE THE STUFF IN THE HOUSE

AND BRIAN ASAWA, THE MAN WHO'S **PUTTING THE HIGH** NOTES IN HANDEL

JACKO'SULLIVAN'S RAISING LIFE

WEATHER



Western Scotland and north-western parts of Northern Ireland will be rather dull and bressy with occasional drizzle, sleady at times near coasts. Eastern Scotland and the rest of Northern Ireland will be mostly dry with pleasant sunny breaks and it will be very mild for February. England and Wales will be dry and fine with plenty of sunshine, and although warm as last week. South-east coasts will see less

Outlook for the next few days

but overnight tog may be slow to clear from the Midiands. A few pens will see a little drizzle, these being mainly in the lar north and north-west. Thursday will be generally cloudy, only the south-east likely to get any decent sunshine, with rain and drizzle affecting western parts. On Finday rain will cross the UK being replaced by a cooler, showery airstream.

Atlantic chart, noon today

inverses (panich) of Scilly Jarsey Liverpeel Landon

22:37 21:49 15.51 Dun Laoghaire Lighting-up times It will remain mostly try and settled on Wednesday Sun & moon Air quality

High tides

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Out and about with AA Roadwatch

CONTENTS Leader & letters Comment **Obituaries**



MICHAEL **HANLON** WEATHER

WISE

SPECTACULAR temperatures have been recorded in southern Britain over the past week, as an area of high pressure centred on western France has sent warm dry air in our direction from Africa and the Canary Islands. In several places, the mercury has soured to a summery 20C the sort of temperatures we associate with a flaming June, not a foggy February.

Of course, every silver lining has a cloud: skiers are unlikely to be appreciating the warmth, which has cleared the snow from the Scottish slopes and is threatening to do the same in the Alps.

rection is from the south, the very warmest places to be in Britain are often on the north coasts of South-west England. Already mild air blows across the Channel, picking up some moisture on the way. As the air ture condenses out as rain or

Continuing north, the air then descends over the northem flanks of Exmoor, Dartmoor it falls. The air is now dryer than before, having lost its moisture on the hills. Dry air warms up more easily than moist air, and so there is a net heat gain of 3-5C, good news for the people of Lynmouth and Ilfracombe.

This effect is called a Föhn wind, and this weather feature, on a much larger scale, is common in the northern Alpine valleys of Austria, Switzerland and Bavaria at this time of year, making the snow disappear before your eyes.

Spectacular Föhn winds, locally called the Chinook, affect the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains of North America. In 1988, a particularly strong

Crosswords 28, The Eye 10

The Eye II & I2

Unit Trusts

When the prevailing wind di- Chinook nearly wiped out the Winter Olympics in Calgary, as temperatures rose from -10C to around 20C in less than one Föhn winds are not the only Prest

of po

MUII

airflows both consistent and unusual enough to be given a is forced ever the West Coun- name. The south of France oftry moors, it rises and cools a few ten falls victim to the Mistral, erees, and some of the mois- a kind of anti-Folim that sweeps south down the Rhone valley in winter, bringing unusually cold air to the Mediterranean coast. The Harmattan blows other Saharan dust all over West Africa and Bodmin Moor, warming as and sometimes into Europe and onto freshly-washed cars and washing lines. And the Texas Norther can see temperatures plummet in this sub-tropical state to below freezing in January and February. The same wind, which changes its name to Tehuantepecer as it crosses the Rio Grande, brings

a chill to the Mexican plains. The Arabian Khamsin, or Sirocco, blows hot dry air from the south-east. Khamsin winds can bring temperatures of 50C or more across the Middle East and North Africa. Fortunately, for anyone experiencing such outlandish temperatures, the bumidity will probably be close to zero.



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Catholic anger at Murdoch's papal knighthood

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The Roman Catholic church is receiving complaints from worshippers following news that Rupert Murdoch has been awarded a papal knighthood from Pope

Senior Catholics are said to have been 'mystified and astonished" when they heard that the purveyor of newspaper sex. scandal and nudity was made a Knight Commander of St Gregory at a ceremony in Los Angeles last month.

News of the award was kept out of Mr

Murdoch's British titles - the Sun, the Times, the Sunday Times and the News of the World - at his request, although it is provoking outrage in the religious media and in Ireland, where many Catholics have reacted with anger that Mr Murdoch, who is not a Catholic, appears to have been honoured purely for donating large sums of money to the church. He and his wife, Anna, who is a Catholic, are known in Los Angeles as large contributors to the Archdiocesan Education Foundation, although

specific amounts are not known. The award was made by the Pope at the

suggestion of Cardinal Archbishop Roger Herald, said: "We have been receiving a Mahony of Los Angeles. His recommendation was vetted by the Secretariat of State at the Vatican before being given the approval of the pontiff.

The knighthood is bestowed upon people of "unblemished character". It was presented by the Cardinal at St Francis De Sales Church in Los Angeles on 11 January. Other recipients included Bob Hope and Roy Disney, of the Walt Disney empire.

The reaction of Catholics in Britain has been almost unanimously negative. Deborah Jones, editor of the Catholic

much larger mailbag that usual, about 99 per cent of it asking: 'What the hell is the church doing giving him a knighthood?"

The great majority are complaining about page 3 girls and soft pornography in his newspapers and on his satellite channels. Some of the more thoughtful ones are expressing concern over his monopolistic tendencies and his [legal] reluctance to pay taxes. Worst of all, it does the church no good at all because it gives the impression

that these honours can be bought." Jounna Bogle, of the Association of

Catholic Women, described the decision to honour Mr Murdoch as "absurd".

Speaking in a personal capacity, she said: "It sends out the message that you can make a living out of something - soft pornography - that is regarded by the Church as sinful, and yet you can be awarded for it. The Knighthood of St Gregory is supposed to be about honour and chivalry and and splendour. To give it to Murdoch is ridiculous and wrong."

Fr Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office, confirmed that some Catholics had been complaining.

"Some have said that this man is a purveyor of pornography and filth. The News of the World may not be everyone's idea of a good read, but in general, no one could say Mr Murdoch has done anything evil."

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory MP who converted to the Catholic church, said she was "astonished" at the award. But she added: "I hope that now ... he might feel obliged to make some of his newspapers conform to Catholic teachings. It is never too late for a sinner to repent."

News International said Mr Murdoch did not wish to comment.



By Paul McCann Media Correspondent

BASIL would be livid. Fresh from taking the bad behaviour from Men Behaving Badly, excising the drinking, smoking, drugs and jokes from Absolutely Fabulous, American television has its heart set on ruining another British comedy classic.

Because CBS is planning a remake of Fawlty Towers.

The Seventies series is set to star American sit-com actor John Larroquette, who is best known in Britain for his part as a grasping lawyer in the Eighties comedy Night Court.

The pilot is yet to be made, but the omens are not good. Without the demented windmill that was Cleese's Basil Fawlty; without Prunella Scales's Sybil - "A laugh like someone machine-gunning a seal," according to Basil - and Andrew Sachs's innocent Manuel, the show looks likely to be less funny than a wet weekend in Torquay.

Despite once declaring that the show was so perfectly formed he would only make the 12 existing episodes, the format has been sold by John Cleese and his former wife Connie Booth, who wrote the series with him.

The new version will be made by USA Networks Studios and written by two writers who, rather worryingly, created a comedy called Something So Right. This was a comedy of manners about a couple with a

They took the drink

fags away from Patsy

and stopped the men

away from Fitz, the

behaving badly. So

whatever will the

Americans do to

Basil and Sybil?

number of previous marriages behind them. Fawlty Towers has long been a hit on American television thanks to eternal repeats on Public Service Television and the cable channel Comedy Central. Twenty years after it was made it remains the BBC's best-selling comedy for overseas sales and every year appears in its top-ten best-selling programmes list.

It is not the first time the Americans have made an attempt on this piece of comedy history. In 1983 a short-lived series called Amanda's, which rather missed the point of the Watery Fowls title jokes, tried reversing the gender of the bad tempered hotelier.

The history of more recent comedy format acquisitions is not much better. Roseanne Barr bought the rights to Absolutely Fabulous, but was told it could never be allowed on air in America with so much drinking and smoking. The re-made clean version was called High Society and managed a meagre 13 episodes - which is about half a se-



ries in America - before being canned. The watered-down American version of Men Behaving Badly managed one and half series before being cancelled.

Not only comedies suffer when they cross the Atlantic. The lead in Fitz, the US version of Cracker, goes easy on the the alcohol and gambling, and is never seen drawing on a cigarette, unlike the Fitz played by Robbie Coltrane.

"They like to buy our series ideas because gives them an already-made product to put in front of a network, a star or a team of writers," says Colin Jarvis, head of format licensing at BBC Worldwide. "It gives producers a kind of short cut through the system."

Mr Jarvis denies that watering down British jokes is causing American producers problems, "Perhaps that was the case when Men Behaving Badly was put on too early for the subject matter," he says. "But One Foot in the Grave with Bill Cosby is doing well. And in the past All in the Family and Sandford and Son, which came from Till Death us do Part and Steptoe and Son, did very well. I think its just that its a tougher market now and shows don't get long to prove they work."



Very British humour: If the Americans took the bad behaviour out of Men Behaving Badly (above), what will they do to Fawtly Towers?

Doctors who make cutting remarks called to account

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Doctors who make insulting remarks about patients on the operating table risk being found out when the general anaesthetic fails to work, researchers

Lost in translation: Not so Absolutely Fabulous (top) in

the US without the drugs and drink, and Cracker

(above) loses its hard edge when it becomes Fitz

report today. Patients who heard themselves described as fat, ugly or overweight later complained when they recovered from the anaesthetic that had rendered them immobile and incapable of speech but not asleep.

A study of 45 patients who reported being conscious while undergoing major surgery found half said they were struck marks made about their bodies. the disease, or the surgery itself. Half the patients said they were able to see what was go-

ing on with some able to recognise things or faces. Two thirds recalled conversations and the same proportion felt being touched. But although most tried to alert

someone, all found themselves

to be paralysed and none succeeded. The study, reported in the British Journal of Anaesthesia, is the latest to describe the rare event of awareness under a general anaesthetic. About one in

500 patients regains some level of consciousness during an operation but in almost every case they remain paralysed, unable to give any sign they are aware of what is going on. Professor Dierk Schwender

and colleagues of the Institute for Anaesthesiology, Munich, Germany, who found the patients by advertising for them, said that the feeling of helplessness was the most traumatic part of the experience for all of the patients.

"The feeling that they were unable to influence the situation was was more important than the pain some of them said they suffered," Professor Schwender said.

Although the cases are extremely rare, awareness under anaesthesia is commonest during caesarians, when doctors try to limit the amount of anaesthetic used to minimise the risk of harm to the baby, and during heart operations, when poor circulation means the anaesthetic may not reach the brain in sufficient quantities.

We always prepare patients undergoing these operations and reassure them that we will talk to them all the time and watch out for any sign that they may be conscious. If you do that they are quite happy to accept it." Professor Schwender said. "One should treat patients always as patients, even when they are unconscious. It is when doctors fail to do that that

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Crowning glory for 'Lear' at Olivier theatre awards

By David Lister Arts News Editor

IAN HOLM and Richard Eyre celebrated a double triumph for the National Theatre's production of King Lear when they both received Laurence Olivier Awards yesterday.

The best actor award went to Ian Holm for his towering performance, soon to be repeated on television. And Richard Eyre was named best director.

The two stars of the musical Chicago. Ute Lemper and Ruthie Henshall, were pitted against each other for the best actress in a musical award. Lemper won and in customary awards ceremony style immediately

paid a tearful tribute to her co-star. Zoe Wanamaker was named best actress for her role in Electra, while Patrick Marber's comedy of contemporary sexual mores, Closer, won best play, beating two men he acknowledged as lifelong influences, Tom Stoppard and David Hare.

lan Holm is one of many star names supporting the Independent and Independent on Sunday's Save The Arts Campaign. And, not surprisingly, at a time of continuing financial crisis in the arts, the awards ceremony at the Albery Theatre in London had a political flavour. Compere Clive Ander-

son, took a swipe at the Government for its arts funding record. He said it had been an eventful year for the arts with the opening of London's Globe Theatre showing audiences what it would have been like to visit a theatre in Shakespeare's day. And he added: "The new Labour Government showed us what arts funding must have been like in the Middle Ages.

When the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, took the stage, he countered: "Can I just say that the Middle Ages didn't last forever." He was not allowed the last word, though. Clive Anderson retorted: "We should be all right in three or four hundred years, then."

There was a significant remark from Mr Smith after Paul Daniel, music director at English National Opera, had won an award. Mr Smith, who a few months ago had caused alarm by indicating the ENO might have to move in to the Royal Opera House, said simply as he came on to the stage: "Long live the English National Opera," causing those present to believe

that threat must have been rescinded. Mr Smith also made a plea to retain one of Britain's most famous theatres, the Old Vic, as he paid tribute to the men who had kept it alive. He was presenting a special award to father and son Ed and David Renseroso Ed Il Moderato by Mark Morris Dance



problems occur."

Mirvish, Canadian owners of the Old Vic, to mark their work in restoring and running the 180-year-old building.

The theatre closed its doors in December and is now up for sale. Mr Smith said: "Please don't rush into a disposal of the Old Vic and give all the rest of us a chance to come forward with good highquality proposals for it to run as a theatre, with a vital role to play in London's life."

Other awards included: Best actor in a musical - Philip Quast in The Fur; Best new musical - Beau ty And The Beast, Best theatre choregrapher - Simon McBorney in The Caucasian Chalk Circle: Best set designer - Tim Goodchild for Three Hours After Marriage: Best performance in a supporting role - Sarah Woodward in Tom & Clem; Best supporting performance in a musical - James Dreyfus in Lady In The Dark; Best new dance production - L'Allegro, Il

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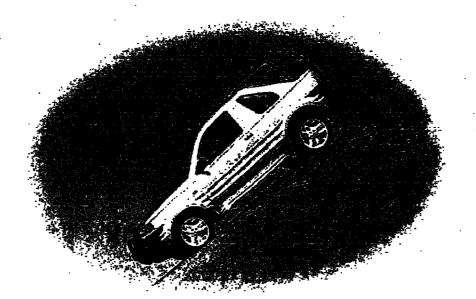
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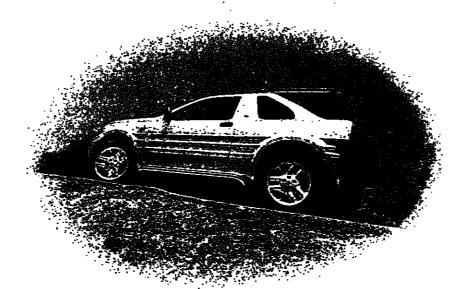
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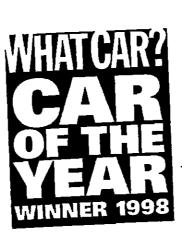
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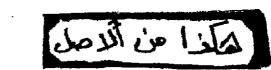
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The team, known as a freeze Review Groups will responsible for advertigating for advertigating for the Technology of plants of the structure. New Milliam Experience Companies of the structure I can be chief eventure Jennie I said. We are delighted the

Private from

rime Health

PRIVILEGE TO

BE A FRIEND

Gellhom's friend.

model of courage.

One of the greatest privileges of my life was to have been Martha

Her accomplishments as a journalist have been well documented and rightly celebrated -Martha hungered after the truth and loathed social injustice. But as a friend she was without parallel, a pillar of support and a

If you felt your life was falling apart, Martha could always be counted upon for inspiration. When my marriage was failing, she sent me a typically stem, two-line note. A woman alone has nothing to be ashamed of, she said, and to be a woman alone is far, far better than to be a woman trapped in a loveless marriage. Martha herself had experienced two failed marriages, the first, of course, to Ernest Hemingway. She adored the company of clever young men and despised those she considered simpering fools. (Martha suffered fools very, very badly.) To be in her company was to be elevated into a special, rarefied world, one where love and loy-

I loved her like a mother and respected her like no other. I will

miss her more than any words

Martha Gellhorn, legend of war reporting, dies



She was one of the most distinguished voices of a bloody and turbulent century, writes Rupert Cornwell

the weekend, aged 89, was not so much a

woman war reporter as one of the very great-

est correspondents to cover the conflicts of

this bloodiest and most violent of centuries.

her final home practised journalism for the

best part of 60 years, from the end of the

1920s to what she would call her "last piece

of war reporting", from South Wales, on

the doomed British miners' strike of 1984

and 1985. In between, she covered wars

from Spain to Finland, China and Java,

and Europe and - much later - the Arab-

This American who made London

Martha Gellhorn, who died in London at Israeli Six Day War and Vietnam. Some-horn learn her craft and distil her passion. and searched themselves for lice. They how too, she found time to produce a dozen novels and collections of short sto-

ries, as well as four volumes of memoirs. duty, she believed, was to "limit yourself Yes, a part of her fame was owed to marriage (her second) with Ernest Hemingway. whom she had met in Key West in 1936. But only a small part. Gellhorn followed him to Madrid, and from there covered the Spanish Civil War for Colliers Weekly. War's long separations and Hemingway's own idiosyncracies broke the relationship, and they divorced in 1946. But however impossible his ways, the writer helped Gell- ed Dachau, "the skeletons sat in the sun time of observation had taught her that



have no age and no faces ... they watched

shows on a face that is only yellowish, stub-

Those who have witnessed such de-

pravity can never thereafter be blind to the

injustices of life. Gellhorn was a radical.

who instinctively took the side of the dis-

advantaged and unprotected - a special

bête noin in later life was Margaret

Thatcher and her "evil revolution" that

stoked hatred of the working class. A life-

bly skin stretched across bone."

"all that objectivity shit". The reporter's us but they did not move. No expression

She once declared she could not abide

to what you see or hear, and not suppress

or invent". Which is of course in a sense

subjectiveness - but also as good a defin-

ition of journalistic objectivity, under real

or extreme emotional fire, as can be found.

conveyed the atrocities of Nazism to the

world. "Behind the barbed wire and the

electric fence," she wrote of just-liberat-

Gellhorn was among those who first

Photographs: Robert Capa, lan Berry/Magnum

the disadvantaged and unprotected are usually the first victims of war. Martha

Gellhorn told it like it was.

To later generations of women war reporters, she was inspiration and a role model. Among her female contemporaries only Clare Hollingworth, who from the Polish-German border in 1939 scooped the Foreign Office on the outbreak of the Second World War, came close. Oriana Fallaci, the BBC's Kate Adie, Carole Walker and Sue Lloyd Roberts, and now Christiane Amanpour of CNN, are among her profession-

By the end, her sight had almost gone and her physical powers were ebbing. But visitors to her top-floor flat in Cadogan Square, with its views over the rooftops of the great museums of Kensington, found her mental sharpness and commitment as fierce as ever. And in the months before she died, she drew renewed enthusiasm from the election of a Labour Government pledged to an "ethical foreign policy". In a sense, that had been Gellhorn's objective, from behind a typewriter, every day of her professional life.

Obituary, page 18; Comment, page 17

Doctors to join with police to help crack paedophile rings

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

SPECIALIST TEAMS of police and social workers could be set up to crack paedophile rings – a plan contained in a government consultation paper to be published today which abuse. will spark a fresh national debate about how child abuse should be tackled.

The Green Paper, to be unveiled by health minister Paul Boateng, will say that child prostitution should be targeted by social services and police, and it will raise the possibility of a national register for people suspected but not convicted of child abuse offences.

Family doctors will also be given fresh guidance to override their professional codes of patient confidentiality in order to alert social workers and the police where they are presented with evidence of child

Child deaths could also be looked at more closely as part of the review of child abuse in what amounts to the most comprehensive consultation exercise for years mounted by the Government to prevent harm to children.

The Green Paper does not rule out legislation, but seeks to reinforce the action already being taken by agencies to into three main categories: rit- that guidance issued since the

tackle child abuse by improving co-ordination, the exchange tougher guidelines to professionals in the front line. It says that investigating paedophile networks is complex, and time-consuming, and the time may have come to establish specialist teams of police and social workers to

investigate abuse. It points out that since the last major overhaul of the effect on the victims. guidance in 1991, information about the nature of child abuse has increased substantially.

There were 967 cases over the past four years - an average of 242 cases a year - falling

and family abuse. Investigations of information, and issuing looked into claims of occult abuse of children, but found little evidence for its existence.

The Green Paper says the Government recognises that organised abuse of children does occur sometimes within institutions such as residential homes or schools, involving child pornography and it has a "damaging and traumatic"

It says that effective and clear procedures are needed for tackling organised child abuse and asks: "Is there a need for specialist teams?"

On family doctors, it says

ual abuse, paedophile networks Department of Health document Working Together in 1991 made clear that child abuse was one of the exceptional circumstances in which disclosure of information to agencies, such as social services, could be justified in order to safeguard

the interests of the child.

Greater emphasis is now being

placed on that guidance. Doctors have become increasingly uneasy about the expansion of their "policing" role. A BMA source said: "GPs are facing policing tasks being imposed on them. It is happening in a number of areas. from drinkers to drivers and now child abuse. They think it's

It raises difficult issues for health professionals in breaking a confidence about families for whom they have to provide health care. However, it is unlikely that GPs will wish to be seen refusing to help the community in which they live to stop child abuse. The need for better co-ordination between agencies has been underlined repeatedly in reports on suc-

cessive child abuse scandals. The professor at the centre of a controversial project involving the clandestine filming of child abuse by parents in hospital said in October that more help was needed from family doctors in alerting the authorities to abuse.

Boy hurt in sunroof horror

A TRIP for a Valentine's day gift almost ended in tragedy when a three-year-old boy was nearly choked to death by a car sunroof. The toddler's father left the boy and an 18-monthold baby strapped in the back of the car while he went into a florist's on Friday.

But when he returned to his car, at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, he found his son trapped in the roof. The boy twice accidentally tripped the sunroof control switch - locking it against his neck and almost killing him.

But his father, who is trained in first aid, released his son, gave him the kiss of life and heart massage and eventually brought him round. He was described as being in a "comfortable" condition yesterday at Durham's Dryburn Hospital.

Call to scrap fraud juries

JURIES could be scrapped for complex fraud trials, under government proposals announced yesterday. The move follows a series of high-profile cases, such as the Blue Arrow trial, that have collapsed at huge expense. But John Wadham, director of civil liberties group Liberty, said: "The right to trial by jury is a fundamental part of our constitution and is the only democratic element in a criminal justice system."

Welsh Assembly site

THE battle to provide a home for the planned Welsh Assembly is now a two-horse race between Cardiff and Swansea, the Government said yesterday. The Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, said he had received 14 proposals from developers and 10 from local authorities, but confirmed that the two cities had emerged as the only realistic sites for the building.

Supermarket 'embargo'

The Irish government accused British supermarkets yesterday of operating an embargo on Irish beef sales in the UK worth £200m a year. The Republic's agriculture minister, Joe Walsh. made a formal protest in Brussels about British beef marketing tactics which he said were in breach of the EU treaty.

Dome organisers send their First XI out to bat

Organisers of the Millennium Dome yesterday unveiled the line-up of celebrities and experts who will advise them on what should go inside the controversial exhibition. Members of the committee, dubbed the "Litmus Group". range from the children's entertainer Floella Benjamin and film producer Lord Puttnam to experts from the arts, sciences and broad-

The team, known as the Creative Review Group, will be responsible for advising organisers on the coherence, qualientertainment and educational potential of plans for the structure. New Millennium Experience Company chief executive Jennie Page

said: "We are delighted that ...











Sounding the millennium with good advice: Michael Grade (left), Lord Rogers, Floella Benjamin and Lord Puttnam

we can call on the best in the business in terms of making sure our creative ideas have genuine popular appeal at the same

Private health cover from 44p a day.

time as intellectual bite." The sauds Group. group, whose members are unpaid, has so far met three times, and is expected to meet on a monthly basis until the Dome opens in 2000.

The team includes: ■ Floella Benjamin - children's TV presenter and actress. ■ Sir Neil Cossons - director of

the Science Museum. Professor Christopher Frayling - rector, Royal College

of Art. ■ Simon Jenkins - millennium commissioner and newspaper

■ Lord Puttnam - chairman of

Enigma Productions. ■ John Sorrell - chairman, the Design Council. ■ Lord Rogers - Dome archi-

■ Mike Davies - Millennium project director at the Richard Rogers Partnership. ■ Michael Grade - former head of Channel Four, chairman of

First Leisure Corporation. ■ Ruth Mackenzie - general director of Scottish Opera. Mr Grade and Ms Macken-

zie are also members of the ■ Michael Jolly-chairman and NMEC board. Ms Page said the chief executive of The Tus- group was an informal December 1999. The BBC is stead on a millennium hospital.

arrangement and more members were likely to be added. She said the team would be

reviewing plans for all areas of the exhibition. Other experts are also being called in as "witnesses" to advise on specific attractions or services. Among these will be the panel of children to give a young person's view. The BBC's Director of Television, Alan Yentob, is also being brought in to advise on the broadcasting potential of the opening night of the Dome and the year-long exhibition.

Plans so far are for the BBC to broadcast the opening on 31 the money could be spent in-

also working with the NMEC to create the Millennium Memory Bank of oral histories which will form one feature of the ex-Fears that BT was about to

withdraw £12m sponsorship were dismissed yesterday by Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, who told the Commons prospects for private sector investment in the £750m project remained strong. He said he had spoken to Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, who had said: "No, we are certainly not going to pull out." The reason why the company was not going to pull out, Mr Mandelson said, was because BT was not "a company of the old school, of the old Britain, unconfident and unambitious" but rather a "company of the future - confident and vibrant like the new Britain".

The question session produced so much criticism that Barry Sheerman, a Labour supporter of the scheme, later protested to the Speaker about the lack of balance in the questions asked. Among critics, Dennis Skinner asked whether "Heseltine's Folly" had passed the point of no return at which

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Ban smoking in public, say asthma campaigners

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

SMOKING should be banned in all public places to protect the 17,000 children admitted each year to hospital because of the effects of other people's tobacco smoke, the National Asthma Campaign says today.

fected by passive smoking and in many the symptoms can be severe. In a new policy paper, the campaign savs smoking should be banned not only in pubs and restaurants

but anywhere where the public, especially children, may congregate including parks, open spaces and shopping centres as well as offices and buildings.

Helen Donohoe, author of the paper "No Smoke Without Asthma", said some effects of smoking - as a cause of lung cancer, for example - were slow to show up, Eight out of ten asthma sufferers are afimmediate. "Someone with asthma breathing in cigarette smoke is likely, minutes later, to have an asthma attack or breathing difficulties," she said.

pact their habit had. "Our position is that people with asthma should have the freedom and independence to take control of marathon runner, keeps his asthma well their lives. With passive smoking that control is lost."

Jane Tebbutt, a mother of three children with asthma, said they reached for their inhalers within 20 minutes of being smoked over to combat wheezing and tightness in the chest. "As a family our social life is dictated by whether the environment is hardening. An opinion poll conducted smoke-free or not. We very rarely go any-

be smoking."

David Cunningham, a 27-year-old T always have to ask for non-smoking areas when I go out. Whilst I can put up with smoke - I won't let it drive me out of a restaurant for example - it does make me uncomfortable."

last month among 1,200 adults found al-

Many smokers were unaware of the imwhere where there is a chance people will most two-thirds favoured a smoking ban in ters supported a ban on smoking in the

workplace. Last week, a survey of 500 young people aged 11-15, conducted for the Department of Health, found three-quarters favoured a ban on smoking in public places and wanted the legal age for buying cigarettes raised from 16 to 18. Nine-Public attitudes against smoking are ty six per cent said they did not consider smoking to be "cool" and 30 per cent considered it a killer and a health hazard. Yet

1 per cent at age 11 to 33 per cent at age 15.

In addition to a ban on smoking in public places, the National Asthma Campaign is calling for a ban on all tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion, a campaign to highlight the risks of smoking in pregnancy and a rise in tax on tobacco to the maximum allowed under EU law.

A spokeswoman said: "People with asthma should have the right to breathe clean air. Without effective government action that will never happen.

Briton stabbed to death on Kenya safari holiday

ficer was fatally stabbed in front of his wife as he grappled with two robbers while on safari in

Roy Chivers, 51, a former detective constable with the torate of Intelligence, was vicious attack on Sunday. knifed in the chest as he struggled against two robbers stealing his cameras.

Mr Chivers, a father of two from Orpington, Kent, was visiting Kenya for the first time. He was on a two-week holiday with his wife. Sandra, 50, at the exclusive Aberdare Country Club, 140 miles north of the capital Nairobi.

He was attacked after refusing to hand over his video

Guests at the luxury safari

They were flown to Nairobi hospital where Mr Chivers suffered a cardiac arrest and died. aged 23. Mrs Chivers also suffered a

cut to the hand as she struggled Metropolitan Police's Directo to protect her husband from the Scotland Yard said Mr

Chivers joined the Metropolitan Police in May 1966 when he was 19. In August 1979 he moved to the Directorate of Intelligence as a surveillance officer where he continued until he had completed his 30 years'

A senior colleague at Scotland Yard, Detective Inspector Sheridan said: "Roy Chivers" death came as a great shock to everybody ... He will be greatly gether."

A RETIRED British police of- in blood being cradled by his home in Clay Wood Close, Orpington, family friend David Walters was comforting their children Steven, 20, and Helen,

> Mr Walters said: "The family are totally and utterly, utterly devastated. That is all I can say at the moment."

Mr Walters, himself a constable in the Met, was close to tears as he remembered the sense" when visiting Kenya. friend he had known for almost two decades. "He was just, you know, a

lovely bloke. We used to have family ... some laughs. He'd got a good sense of humour. We have been on holiday with him. We have been friends

ago. The kids have grown up to-

Nairobi accompanied by Mrs Chivers' father, Norman, last night, but Steven was unable to travel because there were problems with his passport.

"I don't know when they'll be coming back, the tickets are open-ended," he said.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office in London is warning tourists to use their "common

A spokesman said: "We are appalled by this senseless murder. Our thoughts are with the

"We would recommend that people take a common-sense approach when travelling to Kenya. Be aware when you are since we moved here 19 years in possession of valuables.

"However, we don't wish to single out Kenya as a particu-Mr Walters said Helen larly troublesome spot - we

At Mr and Mrs Chivers Chivers was intending to fly to don't want to panic people." camp found Mr Chivers covered Holiday airline delays getting worse

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

The world may becoming a smaller place but the wait to get anywhere is getting worse. Those heading off to foreign climes, according to official figures released vesterday, face lengthening airport delays. The Air Transport Users

Council (AUC), which aims to look after passengers' interits, reported some charter airlines operated over 25 per cent of their summer 1997 flights more than an hour late Such delays were "unac-

ceptable" said Ian Hamer, the council's chairman, and he admonished poor-performing airlines - saying they must "do

Of charter flights monitored in summer 1997, 18 per cent were more than an hour late either arriving at or departing from nine UK airports. The av-



which may only last a few hours.

What is worse is for travellers is the increasing length of delays. In the summer months of 1996. 16 per cent of flights were more than an hour late and the average delay was 35

Among those who fared

Only fractionally better were than 20 per cent of their summer flights departed more than erage delays of 14 minutes. 60 minutes after their scheduled

2000 had a 39-minute average reduce delays compared with pared with 22 minutes summer 1996. the previous summer. Rick Conley, chief executive

erage delay was 38 minutes - a of Caledonian Airways - which considerable addition to a flight carried 1.5 million passengers last year, said that "changes have been put in place since last year". The airline will also have an extra four aircraft to deal with the extra demand this

> The title of "worst-performing carrier" last summer went to Nordic European Air-

badly were many household lines. Travellers faced an avernames. A quarter of Caledon- age delay of 86 minutes. More ian Airways flights ran an hour than one in three of its flights was more than an hour late.

Best performer was Pegasus Airtours and Air 2000. More with just 5 per cent of flights more than one hour late and av-

The AUC says that the league tables encourage oper-Airtours' average delay was ators to improve performance. 46 minutes, compared with 39 Mr Hamer singled Monarch minutes in summer 1996. Air was one of the few carriers to

> 'Monarch has shown what airlines can do and we are now looking to those carriers that are propping up the bottom of the [delays] table to improve their service to their passengers," he

The figures relate to statisties collected on flights at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Luton, Manchester, and Newcastle airports.

Take a trip to sunny Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN, the country at the top of the Foreign Office danger list, could soon be welcoming British tourists once more. A small adventure travel company has begun canvassing for clients for an "exploratory tour" of the strifetorn country. Consular staff at the Foreign Office have roundly condemned the move, but the organiser says the plan is simply responding to demand.

The tour is being proposed by Hinterland Travel, based in Surrey. Its director, Geoff Hann, has been running overland trips since 1969, initially catering for travellers on the hippic trail" to the East.

Mr Hann last visited Afghanistan 15 years ago, after the Soviet invasion but before the country's disintegration into civil war. He feels the time is now right to return. "I'm aching to go again. Last November I met a couple of Germans who had just come back. They had no problems at all."

The holiday is likely to last two weeks, entering the country overland from Pakistan instead of flying in to the capital, Kabul. It will use local transport rather than an overland vehicle. Mr Hann plans a group of around five people - "safety in numbers, but not too large" but warms people he takes no responsibility for their welfare.

By Judith Judd

Education Editor

ceptional cases.

TEACHERS may push and

pull pupils to stop them fight-

how teachers may use reason-

able force to restrain pupils.

They aim to end the belief by

many teachers that even touch-

ing pupils may lead to legal ac-

The Foreign Office yesterday condemned the plan as "foolhardy". British travellers should not visit Afghanistan under any circumstances, a spokesman said, and added: "The place is in a total state of anarchy."

Guidelines on unruly pupils tion. Instead, teachers are told Only in the most exceptionthey may use physical restraint not only if a pupil is likely to injure others but also if he or she

Water works: Liping Zhang rehearsing for the title role in Madam Butterfly at the Royal Albert Hall yesterday in a

water works: Liping Lineng Telephones which will see the arena flooded to create a Japanese garden Photograph: Rui Xavier new production of Puccini's opera which will see the arena flooded to create a Japanese garden Photograph: Rui Xavier

classroom. Other examples of ing or vandalising property but cases where teachers may use they should only twist their reasonable force include: arms and trip them up in expupils who run along a cor-Guidelines issued by the ridor in a way likely to cause ac-Government yesterday detail

cidents: E serious disruptive behaviour in class;

refuses persistently to leave the

pupils who are at risk because they try to run away from not try to tackle big, burly

al circumstances should teachers take action which might injure, such as slapping or punching, holding a pupil round the neck, twisting or forcing limbs against a joint, tripping up pupils or holding them by the hair. Usually, restraint would involve touching, holding, pushing, pulling, leading a pupil by the arm or leading them away by putting a hand in the centre of the back. But teachers should

pupils who may turn violent.

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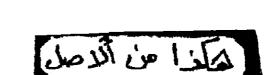
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THE BEST AND THE WORST

THE worst beaches were: Porthpean near St Austell in Comwall (52 items of rubbish per metre); Hoylake, Beach Road, on the top of the Wirral (27 per metre): Oxwich Bay in Swansea (23.64 items per metre); **Jennycliff,** near Plymouth, Devon (21.5 per metre) Stone jetty, at Morecambe, in Lancashire (21.13 per metre) and East Sands, North Queensferry in Fife (20.2 per metre). The best beach was at Sennen Cove, the nearest beach to Land's End in Comwall, with 0.04 items of rubbish per metre. The second best beach was found at Sandways, Kingsand (0.08 per metre) which is on the other side of Plymouth from lennycliff the fourth worst beach. Third best was Waxham, north of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (0.08 items per metre), with Rhyl East in North Wales taking fourth place (0.10 per metre). Portmuck Harbour, at Lame, Co Antom in Northern Ireland was the fifth cleanest beach in the survey, with 0.10 pieces of rubbish per metre.



Photograph: David Swanborough

Beaches drowning in sea of rubbish

By Rosa Prince

BRITAIN'S beaches are drowning under a sea of rubbish including condoms, syringes and sanitary products. Volunteers for the annual Beachwatch survey of Britain's beaches, run by Reader's Digest and the Marine Conservation Society, found an average of 1,482 pieces of waste per kilometre of beach; a 5 per cent dropped from boats. increase on 1996.

At the worst beach, Porthpean in

cluding 225 sanitary items in a 25-metre area. Most of the rubbish was left behind by beachgoers who now make 10 million day-trips to the coast a year. Other waste came from shipping, fishing and sewage.

The litter had an international aspect with rubbish from 16 countries found on the 210 beaches surveyed, presumably

Among the debris were an oven cleaner from China, a carton of apple juice from

bish were found per metre of sand, in- Zealand. There were also fridges, a glass cye and medical waste including a drip feed

> Beachwatch '97 was carried out by nearly 2,500 volunteers. Altogether they found 17,053 crisp and sweet packets, 8,064 drink cans and 8,124 cigarette stubs.

Medical and sanitary waste were a ringes, 458 condoms and 16,467 cotton bud sticks. Cotton buds, which are too small to be filtered out during sewage treatment, Cornwall, an average of 52 items of rub- Poland and an energy drink from New formed the bulk of sanitary waste.

The volunteers also found 538 balloons, 478 shoes and 26 dead animals. More than 50 per cent of the litter was

plastic. Susannah Hickling, Reader's Digest environment editor, said: "Plastic is cheap to produce, easy to use and easy to throw away. But what people don't realise is that it ends up bobbing on our seas prominent feature. They included 215 sy- and washed up on our beaches - an appalling non-biodegradable legacy for fu-

> Samantha Pollard, conservation officer at the Marine Conservation Society, said: better than average.

"Ships must stop dumping overboard and individuals must not drop litter, or flush away plastic bathroom waste."

Rubbish, particularly fishing lines and ropes can cause animals and birds to become entangled. Wildlife can also be poisoned or choked by eating litter such as

Beachwatch '97 revealed that Wales had the dirtiest beaches in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland the best. Scotland and the Channel Islands were slightly

British pubs 'turning into Disneyesque travesties'

TOO many pub-goers are being subjected to "Disneyesque travesties" of Irish and Vic-torian inns, according to judges of a scheme to find Britain's top drinking holes. In a savage attack on design standards, competition judges hit out yesterday at an overabundance of brass and bric-a-brac brought in at the expense of quality and imagination.

They refused to award prizes in two categories of the English Heritage/Campaign for Real Ale Pub Design competition, Conservation and New-Build, saying standards were so low that none of the pubs warranted the accolade. Steven Parissien wrote in the judges' report: "A depressingly large proportion of the entries were bedecked with over-familiar heritage' paraphernalia - Disneyesque travesties straight out of the catalogue rather than the back of the attic."

Dismissing them as "grotesque parodies" of pubs from the 1890s, he said most Victorian interiors were as 'authentic as Dick Van Dyke's cockney accent".

Much of the £10m spent on revamping pubs in 1997 appeared to have been wasted on "heavy-handed" alterations to keep up with the latest marketing theme rather than celebrating the importance of individual buildings.

It is the first time in the competition's 10 year history that a winner has not been found for the Conservation award, although the New Build prize has been given out only

The judges said it was up to pub owners, managers and architects to raise standards, but also called on local authority planners to exercise greater control over renovations. However, it was not all bad news for drinkers. The Bread and Roses, Clapham, south London, run by the Workers Beer Company, won the Best Refurbishment Award for its transformation from a rundown community pub into a hostelry "with attitude" with no sign of "plagiarism, fakes and boring repetition".

The Conversion to Pub Use award went to Frazer's Bar in Edinburgh, housed in the former offices of the Royal Bank of Scotland, described as having an "art deco yet unmistakably contemporary feel".

Judges said there was a trend towards converting banks to pubs or restaurants, as a number of banking chains sold off towncentre premises.





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Hague's reforms jar with the faithful

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

WILLIAM Hague relaunched Tories had modernised more in ported them. the past eight months than

But even as he declared was new evidence of dissent over the changes. As one observer put it. Mr Hague emerged looking more like

Constituency associations an internal survey. Nor do they of local parties. like the idea of a national memof constituencies.

Announcing the changes yesterday, Mr Hague said: "These reforms are not just mine; they sands of party members from all over the country who have takand debates on reform since last

ensure that a quarter of interviewees in candidate selections were women after they were opposed by members. Only his party yesterday, claiming the one-third of members sup-

Only 15 per cent of associ-Labour had done in 18 years. ations strongly agreed with a programme of encouragement "the most radical reforms since for women candidates, and 15 the time of Disraeli", there per cent strongly supported the idea of a women's network, while more than one-third disagreed with it.

The national membership Michael Foot than Tony Blair. database had more support, though only four in 10 strongare strongly opposed to plans for ly supported it. A new area a Conservative Women's Net- framework for the party was work, according to the results of supported strongly by one-third

Other major reforms anbership database, or a new area nounced by Mr Hague includframework with smaller groups ed the ending of foreign donations, which have formed a significant part of the Con- eral election in a ballot. They servatives' funding in the past. He added that he would combelong to the hundreds of thou- ply with the recommendations of the Neill Committee which is currently looking at the issue, en part in meetings and ballots but donations over £5,000 would also be published.

For the first time, party mem-In fact, it became clear that bers will be given a chance to the party dropped plans to vote on policies for the next gen-



Changing times: William Hague at yesterday's launch of The Fresh Future package, which he hopes will breathe new life into the Tory party

will also vote in a ballot on a single European currency though been decided. New party leaders will be elected by a ballot of members, though old leaders will still only be unseated by a vote among MPs.

be replaced by a single organisation, Conservative Future. when this will happen has not The Conservative Women's Network will aim to ensure that echoes of new Labour, Mr Aidan Rankin, secretary of the more women are elected to

There will also be a man-The Young Conservatives, of members elected by a Richard Harvey. Delivered in Conservative Students and national convention of mem- front of a purple backdrop, his tating the new Labour strate-

Conservative Graduates will all bers, and a new disciplinary reform document was titled gy, in reality it is more like old panel to deal with cases of mis- The Fresh Future. conduct by MPs.

Hague descended a staircase in London's Atrium restaurant to Democratic Movement, said the strains of "Spirit of the Fugement board, with one-third ture" from "Millennium" by

Some sections of the party In a move with strong remained unimpressed though. newly-formed Conservative the party was still not listening enough to its members.

"Although the party is imi-

Labour. There is still a 'them and us' atmosphere. It looks in many ways as if one member, one vote for the leader is an excuse to press conformity on

tralise power," he said. The trade minister, Barbara Roche, claimed the Tories

the test of the party and to cen-

Ministers toughen rules on job cuts

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

MINISTERS yesterday proposed much tougher redundancy laws which lawyers believe will lead management to "think twice" before getting rid of employees.

This summer new legislation is expected to introduce "clear rules" making it more difficult for companies to avoid consulting their workers in cases of "downsizing", or where an undertaking is transferred from

one employer to another.

Proposals rabled by Ian Mc-Cartney, the trade and industry minister, will also remove the ability of employers to "adjust the number and timing" of redundancies to get round the law. Mr McCartney intends remov-ing a threshold relieving employers of obligations where fewer than 20 job losses are planned within a 90-day period.

The minister will attempt to ensure that unions are part of the consultation process where they are recognised. Where there is no union, more stringent regulations are envisaged aimed at ensuring that employees' representatives are properly elected and independent.

Mr McCartney proposes higher compensation for workers who have not been properly informed of employers' plans. They will receive the equivalent of 90 days' pay (nearly 13 weeks) instead four weeks in many cases at the moment.

Eur irst

John McMullen, employment law partner at solicitors Pinsent Curtis, a leading firm which specialises in advising employers, said companies would have to bear in mind the cost of trimming the workforce after the new regulations, tabled to ensure Britain complies with European Union law, came into force. "It could make employers think twice about redundancies," he said.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the plans would give workers rights denied them

Labour under attack over benefit changes and welfare-to-work plan

MINISTERS were under attack for stifling budding musicians. from two sides last night over

supporting record company ex-

Alan McGee, head of Creplans to reform benefits and get ation records and a member of the unemployed back to work. the Government's Creative In-As a group of campaigners dustries Task Force, said the pro- the Government's promoting for the disabled met Harriet gramme was "incredibly naive" which is fair enough because it's Harman, the Secretary of State and was also unworkable for never been better for 20 or 30 for Social Security, a Labour- people hoping to be musicians. years - and then put the next

them from pursuing their musical goals, he said.

"You cannot be promoting this 'Cool Britannia' image that

ecutive attacked the govern- ambitious young musicians to and Primal Scream singer Bob- said. McGee, who signed up with Ms Harman to accuse not convinced. However, she ment's Welfare to Work scheme take jobs which would prevent by Gillespies into jobs doing Oasis after discovering them in ministers of turning disabled refused to suspend the widerplumbing," he said.

The Government could not expect to gather in the accolades being handed out to Britain's revived entertainment industry reception last year. while wiping out the chances of the next generation of stars. "It's when the all-party disability ment of their payments under that this government is making killing off people's spirit and we group, led by Lord Ashley of the Benefits Integrity Pro-militants out of six-and-a-half mil-

a Glasgow club, gave the Labour Party £50,000 before last reviewing their benefits. year's general election. He was also a guest at a Downing Street

people into militants by scale review of welfare benefits

State reiterated assurances that no disabled person in genuine cuts to disability benefits. Later there was more dissent need should fear the reassess-

on which the Government has Although the Secretary of embarked, or to guarantee there would be no significant Lord Ashley said: "It seems ...

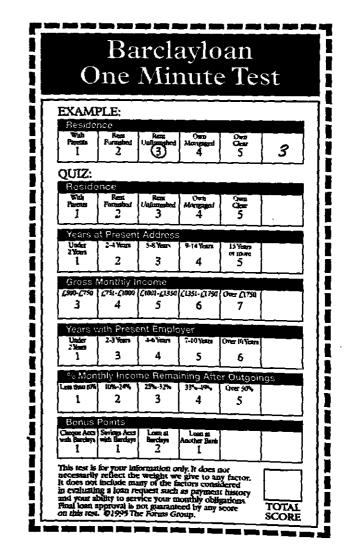
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Nicholas Schoon at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia on how natives use plant life against disease and predators



Natural remedy: A scientist has studied Amazon tribes who extract drugs from a bean which they grind and then snort to flush out

Trance encounter for Amazon medicine man

Hallucinogenic drugs from the Amazon rainforest are also a which contain potent hallupowerful medicine against gut cinogens. One is a Passiflora or parasites, a leading "ethnobotanist" and biochemist told the meeting. They are prescribed by tribal medicine men for both spiritual and medicinal needs, with no clear dividing line between the two.

Professor Eloy Rodriguez of Cornell University, New York State, studies the ways in which several tribes and animal species in a small part of the Amazon jungle in Venezuela use plants. In a series of field trips, he and his researchers have identified more than 100 species which are used for purposes other than food - deterring parasites and predators, fighting disease and putting entists then try to identify the

passion flower with large, beautiful red and yellow flowers, whose leaves are used to make a drink. The other is a legume called yopo which produces bean pods; native people grind the beans into a fine snuff then

Dr Rodriguez has tried them. "They have a very strong hallucinogenic effect but they're also very strong purgatives. Je-

sus! I lost 10lb in weight." The chemicals involved are beta carbolines. They are able to "knock out" nematode worms which infest native peoples, paralysing them so that the diarrhoea and vomiting also caused by the medicine purge them from the body. The worms depend on serotonin, the "happiness" chemical used to signal

He has studied two plants between nerve cells, from their hosts to function normally. The carboline blocks their ability to use serotonin.

Tropical plants and insects contain a vast number of "secondary chemicals" which are used to deter predators. Native people have learnt to use them for making dozens of different poisons and medicines. Mammals scrape their fur with the bank or leaves of certain plants to keep pests off them, and eat others when they are sick.

Dr Rodriguez says he does not collaborate with Western drug firms prospecting for new materials because he believes native people will gain nothing. He says Indians must be encouraged to retain and spread their knowledge of the medicinal powers of local plants in their own countries, grown

Army stockpiles anti-riot chemicals

Political Correspondent

BRITISH army chiefs are stockpiling a chemical 10 times scrutiny of its use. more potent than CS gas to use in riots, The Independent has discovered.

The revelation that CR might be used fired from a water cannon to disperse crowds in the UK has disturbed civil

volatile than CS and it causes sore eyes and breathing difficulties. Although its effects are consent," he said. not thought to be lasting, it

Officials disclosed that they had CR in their stocks as part of Britain's declaration under the Chemical Weapons Convention, which has not been published despite an earlier pledge to do so.

They would not say, though, how long they had held the chemical, where it was kept or in what circumstances it would be used. Nor would they say whether the government also had stores of water cannon from which to fire it into

The police have said they do not keep CR, so it seems it would only be used in circumstances where the army was called in to support them against rioters.

CR, the full name of which is Dibenz-1:4-Oxazepine, has control agents, it has only renot been used in the British Isles before although scientists at the Porton Down defence search. research centre in Wiltshire are known to have experimented with it about 20 years ago.

Harry Cohen, the Labour MP for Leyton and Wanstead, plans to table a series of parliamentary questions to find by police forces to counteract out more about the stockpile.

"Why is it that the Ministry of Defence has a greater vari- after a trial period reported a ely of riot control agents than 6.8 per cent drop in assaults the civil police? I shall be demanding some answers," he

The civil rights group Liberty group.

By Ian Duhig

DAILY POEM

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Signals, an anthology of poetry and prose from writers involved in the first Abbey Arts Week, organised by the Abbey Grammar School in Newry. Signals, edited by Adrian Rice, costs £8.95 (paperback) from The Abbey Press, Courtenay Hill, Newry,

The Folklorist (for Kath Grant)

He pitched forward while the corpse tumbled back

She ripped the fur up to the rabbit's ears And the red torc left by her snare,

Saying some resurrection man once fell Hauling her kin up yon church wall

They hung like justice by the yew thicket And would I like a lucky foot?

And the slipknot rode to his neck.

County Down BT34 2ED.

is also angered by the disclosure. It already campaigns against CS, saying there has been no consultation or parliamentary

Guidelines laid down by the Association of Chief Police Officers suggest CS should only be used by individual officers under attack, the group says.

John Wadham, Liberty's director, said neither CS nor CR should be used to control The chemical is more crowds. "We see it as part of a move towards policing by coercion rather than by

> It does not seem that the ern Ireland. The Royal Ulster Constabulary, under whose umbrella the army acts in the province, said yesterday that it preferred plastic bullets.

> "They are a much preferred means of riot control in any circumstances. Water cannons and CS gas are indiscriminate while plastic baton rounds can be directed at a particular rioter," a spokesman said.

> Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Defence would not say how much CS was held, where it was held or what plans there were for using it. Although the Conservatives

> promised to publish the Government's submission under the Chemical Weapons Convention, which includes riot leased the parts relating to old stocks and ongoing defensive re-

In a separate development, it has also emerged that the Ministry of Defence has let a £100,000 contract to scientists at Porton Down to research alternatives to CS gas.

The sprays are mainly used attacks on individual officers.

Figures released by ACPO against officers armed with the spray, but a 14 per cent drop in assaults against a control

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Voting in India's badlands

On the first day of the elections, Peter Popham takes to the road

I SET OFF vesterday morning for the badlands of Uttar Pradesh, with booth-capturing history-sheeters on my mind.

Two hundred and twenty two of India's 545 constituencies voted in the general election, including Delhi, and much of the north. In several nearby "historyconstituencies, sheeters" - people with a long history of being charged with crimes, or "charge-sheeted" as the Hinglish term has it - are standing for election.

Elsewhere, confirmed gangsters, kidnappers and murderers operate with the protection of MPs. One way such people influence election results is by "booth-capturing" - staging raids on polling stations, setting them on fire, seizing ballot papers, marking them for their favoured candidate and stuffing the boxes; even (as happened in Bihar state yesterday), strangling the polling officer.

polling stations staffed by 4.5 million election officials, so one's chances of stumbling upon something gruesomely irregular are slim. I tried to improve the odds by going first to Ghaziahad, a ramshackle city an hour east of Delhi, where trouble was expected.

At the entrance of a halfbuilt school, police with breechloading rifles looked on laconically as the citizens filed in. The procedure at an Indian polling station is as follows. You present yourself, preferably but not compulsorily armed with identification, at a table ginning to bear fruit. manned by supporters of your favoured party, who check your name on a list, cross it off and give you a slip. At another table, a non-partisan polling official takes the slip, checks your name a second time, hands over a ballot paper and puts a streak of indelible ink across the index fingernail to deter you from coming back for more.

How voters who are not known supporters of a particuwas not apparent, but I was assured that it is possible. At would romp home.

Ghaziabad no boxes were on fire so I soon drove on. At the next polling station I visited all was not absolutely well.

Noida is another raw new town east of Delhi. As in Ghaziabad, politics and crime are closely interfolded here, with organised gangsters protected by political patrons and therefore strongly motivated to see that their patrons win. Unlike Ghaziabad, security

was genuinely tight here, traffic barred from entering the area, the press among the few exempt. Noida supposedly had 111 "supersensitive" polling stations where high security was in force. The one I visited was calm. But when I asked who was winning, the polling officer answered rather too quickly, The BJP by a mile!" and smirked. If a BJP partisan was in control of the polling station. no amount of police could pre-

vent the election being rigged. Saturday's series of explosions in the southern city of Coimbatore, in which 48 people died, many at a BJP campaign rally, raised fears that this election might be marred by an upsurge of Hindu versus Muslim communal violence. So far that has yet to happen. In Bi-But India has 900,000 har, where the polling officer was strangled, 12 other people died in polling day violence yesterday. And while there are four more polling days to come before counting begins on 8 March, my third polling station of the day offered some tantalising suggestions.

Chandni Chowk is a constituency in the medieval city of Old Delhi, a predominantly Muslim place and one of only two constituencies in the capital not held by the BJP. But here it became apparent that the conciliatory line adopted during this campaign by the BJP towards Muslims is be-

With its roots in militant nalism, the BJP has always been anathema to Muslims. But for the first time, judging by the people I spoke to. Muslims are coming over to them in considerable numbers. One elderly Muslim man said without hesitation: "I voted BJP because they are doing a good job, and they are trying hard to please us." India's Muslim minority about 150 million lar party get past the first table strong. If this trend were to be reflected nationwide, the BJP



A wheel from the China Airlines jet lying in front of a burnt-out building as firefighters search for survivors

200 die as Airbus ploughs into homes

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

MORE than 200 people are feared dead after a China Airlines Airbus 300 crashed on landing yesterday in Taiwan. The jet came down short of the runway at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport, near the capital Taipei, and ploughed on to the coastal highway, coming to a stop when it hit a number of buildings and exploded into a inferno.

The first victims were four adults and a baby travelling in a car which was hit by the aircraft. It then proceeded to destroy four buildings and hit

dozens of houses. Flight CI676, arriving from the Indonesian island of Bali, was carrying 182 passengers and 14 crew members. Rescuers worked through the night looking for surveyors. The first to be found was a fourmonth-old baby who later died in hospital.

Officials are not holding out much hope of finding other survivors from the crash. Bodies and body parts were strewn over the coastal highway and surrounding rice fields.

Among the passengers were the governor of Taiwan's central bank, Sheu Yuan-

head of the bank's foreign exchange department, Cyril Chen. They had been attending a central bankers' meeting discussing the Asian financial crisis. Taiwan has been playing a leading role assisting fellow Asian countries. Most of the other victims were thought to be tourists.

The cause of the crash is unknown. Last night, a China Airlines spokesman said that the company was awaiting further reports before making any comments. He confirmed that the pilot had told the control tower that visibility was bad

dong, and his wife and the and that he was making a second attempt to land. Visibility had been bad earlier in the day but had improved by nightfall when the plane came down. Contact was lost during the second attempt. The black box, which may shed further light on the accident, has already been recovered.

Like most of China Airlines 'pilots both the captain and his deputy were ex-airforce fivers. The captain had been with the airline since 1991. The crashed plane is seven years old. It is part of China Airlines' fleet of 10 Airbuses. Exactly the same model was involved in Taiwan's

worst air disaster when a China Airlines Airbus 300 exploded at Japan's Nagoya airport in 1994, killing 263

Rescuers were on the scene within 10 minutes of the crash but had difficulty getting close to the plane and burning buildings. Witnesses said that they heard an enormous explosion, followed by a fire ball as the plane hit the build-

China Airlines, the national flag carrier, which was recently privatised but is still indirectly state controlled, has a relatively good safety record.

EU backs IMF deal

EUROPEAN Union governments unanimously backed an IMF threat yesterday to pull out of a \$43bn rescue package for Indonesia if President Suharto presses ahead with a plan to peg the rupiah to the dollar.

Jakarta's move would allow it to go on subsidising imports of rice milk and fuel and so avert further food riots. But the IMF and most western governments are opposed to IMF stand-by credits being used to back Indonesia's currency reserve. Without backing, a fixed exchange rate between the rupiah and the dollar would be "catastrophic", British officials said. — Katherine Butler, Brussels

Quebec waits

IN WHAT the chief justice calls Canada's most important legal case ever, Supreme Court must decide whether Quebec has the right to secede unilaterally and declare independence. The court opened hearings yesterday. If it rules that Quebec cannot secede without the rest of Canada's consent, there could be a backlash in the mostly French-speaking

Bomb attack

ZIMBABWE'S only independent member of parliament said yesterday she was attacked by a petrol bomb on Saturday but was not injured. Margaret Dongo said she suspected the bomb. thrown at a home in Chitungwiza, bordering Harare, was aimed at her by supporters of President Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party. — Reuters, Harare

Killing spree

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See A City

A GUNMAN went on a killing spree and shot dead eight neighbours before being beaten to death by survivors in a village in Lithuania. Police said the man's motive was not known. — Reuters, Vilnius

TWO lions broke into a hut where seven members of an Ethiopian family were sleeping and ate them. The lions were scavenging in the drought-hit south of the country and had been terrorising residents before last week's fatal attack in Bale. - Reuters, Addis Ababa

Chinese government backs down on expulsion of British aid worker from Tibet

By Teresa Poole in Peking

China has backed down after forcing a British aid worker to leave Tibet. The Save the Children Fund (SCF) education expert has been told she will be allowed to return to Lhasa and the charity hopes she will be back at her job within weeks. It is unusual for China to change a foreign resident.

When The Independent in December reported the refusal of officials in Tibet to renew the worker's residency papers, the European Union froze its planned 7.6m ecu (£5m) Panam development project for Tibet. The project is supposed to involve non-governmental or-

when its education expert was expelled the British charity said it would not be able to consider involvement in Panam.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the the European Commission, was in Peking yesterday for negotiations on China's attempts to join the World Trade Organisation, but his officials

its mind about expelling ganisations such as SCF, but will also be briefed on the SCF firmation that the new work permit has been granted and no similar problems will occur. Only then will moves be made to sign the Panam agreement. the EU's first bilateral aid project for Tibet. Few foreigners are based full-time in Tibet

only expatriate staff member based in Lhasa sounded alarm bells among the aid community there. No reason was given after the woman was not allowed back into Tibet after going on holiday in July. It seemed the Chinese had become wary of her simply because she had lived in Lhasa for three years and the expulsion of the SCF's and spoke reasonable Tibetan.

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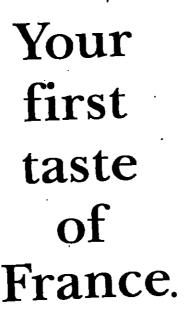


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Fighting talk: Anti-war protesters climb the fences at the Northwood HQ of Britain's Gulf rapid deployment force in west London

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Annan prepares for last ditch trip to Baghdad

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

KOFI ANNAN, Secretary-General of the UN, is to launch a last gasp effort to avoid war in the Gulf with a mission to Baghdad to persuade Saddam Hussein to allow his presidential palaces to be opened to arms inspectors.

Mr Annan was holding consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council in New York last night but senior sources in London indicated that he could go to Baghdad later this week.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, made it clear Britain was "very supportive" but Downing Street emphasised that if the mission failed, Britain and the US remained ready to take action.

In spite of remarks by US defence chiefs last week that it would take another week to build up the military presence in the Gulf, senior British defence sources continued to raise the military tensions. "We are ready to go now," one said.

Mr Cook will use a debate in the Commons today to set out the reasons why the allies are preparing for military action. Foreign Office sources reissued details of intelligence

reports gathered from Hussein Kamil, a defector from Saddam's inner coterie, who disclosed as early as 1995 that the dictator was hiding vast quantities of material involved in the production of weapons of mass destruction.

"UNSCOM has evidence that several organisations including the Special Republican Guard, the Special Security Organisation, and the Intelligence Organisation, have been involved in the mechanism (of concealment)," said a Foreign Office report.

The Government motion supports the efforts to reach a diplomatic solution with Iraq but expresses its full support for the resolve of the Government to "use all necessary means to achieve an outcome consistent with UN resolutions".

Leading Labour dissidents were meeting last night over their tactics for opposing the Government in the debate; around ten are expected to abstain or vote against. The Labour MPs are also planning to lead a vigil in protest at the war outside Downing Street to-

Meanwhile, a poll today by Talk Radio will show that 80 per cent of people are against war

Iraqi officers pay dear for West's coup fiasco

Saddam's intelligence service proved more than a match for a CIA and MI6 attempt to unseat him, reports Patrick Cockburn

EIGHTEEN months ago MI6 conducted a joint operation with the CIA to stage a military coup d'état in Baghdad. It was crushed by Saddam Hussein who executed up to 80 Iraqi officers and arrested hundreds of others. It is one of the biggest fiascos in the history of British foreign intelligence since the war.

Waits

Spree

eat 7

The coup attempt was organised through Amman, the capital of Jordan, and was to be carried out by the Iraqi National Accord led by Dr Iyad Mohammed Alawi, once a member of the ruling Iraqi Baath Party, who fled to London in 1971.

The aim of the conspirators was to recruit Iraqi army and intelligence officers. But the Iraqi National Accord had a wellriddled with double agents from Iraqi security. As the coup collapsed an Iraqi intelligence officer, in a final humiliating gesture, telephoned the CIA station chief in Jordan and told him to go home.

The extent of MI6's in-. volvement in the failed conspiracy was revealed by the Los Angeles Times at the weekend in an article based on interviews with CIA officers critical of the lack of support from the White House for their efforts to overthrow Saddam Hussein. It confirms that "the CIA program [to stage a coup], operated jointly with MI6, the British intelligence service, was based in Jordan, using a front organisation called the Iraqi National Accord".

Despite its dubious reputation among Iraqis, the Accord was favoured not only by MI6,

but by the London station of the overthrow Saddam Hussein, Saddam Hussein as he passed CIA. according to former agency officials. London, a centre for Iraqi exiles, was also a fertile recruiting ground for former members of Iraq's military and political élite whom the Accord wanted to attract. There is an element of farce

in the attempts by Western intelligence to overthrow the Iraqi government. At one moment the FBI was called in by the acting head of the CIA to investigate his own agents for attempting to assassinate Saddam Hussein (the assassination of foreign ed States law). And Washington were up to in Iraqi Kurdistan because the NSA, its code-breakers, had intercepted a message from Iranian intelligence officers to Tehran explaining what the CIA was doing.

From the moment President George Bush signed a finding in May 1991 telling the CIA to

pleted two years in the post.

some of the agency's most experienced officers were dubious about their chances. Frank Anderson, the head of the CIA's Near East Division, told ABC television: "We didn't have a single mechanism or combination of mechanisms with which I could create a plan to get rid of

Saddam at the time." At first the CIA operated through an umbrella organisation called the Iraqi National Congress led by Ahmed Chalabi, a former banker, based in Iraq's three Kurdish provinces leaders being illegal under Unit- from which the Iraqi army had withdrawn. He wanted to build in alliance with the Kurdish factions, would begin to fight the Iraqi army, recruiting men through desertions and mutiny.

Separately, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the former head of Iraqi military intelligence, who joined the opposition in 1994, had a plan to assassinate

— Eric Silver in Jerusalem

over a bridge in his home town of Samarra. Both the military offensive and the assassination bid were supported by the leader of the CIA team in Kurdistan, codenamed "Bob". It is a matter of dispute how much

Washington knew. "Bob" and Mr Chalabi decided the latter should tell Iranian intelligence officials what was going on - it was hoped they would cooperate in an attack on Iraqi government forces in south Iraq. He did so. But when they reported back to their headquarters their message was intercepted by the National Secode-breaking organisation. Informed in this roundabout way about what was happening Tony Lake, the National Security Adviser, sent a message to the CIA team in Kurdistan saying that it did not support the as-

sassination or a military attack

on the Iraqi leader. It is at this point that MI6 and the London station of the CIA developed an alternative strategy by producing the Iraqi National Accord. Brigadier Adnan Nuri, one of its leaders, was already on the CIA payroll. Through him the CIA was authorised by the White House to fund the Accord in a campaign of planting bombs in Iraq. Much is known of this because Abu Amneh al-Khadami, its chief bomb-maker, made a video, seen by The Independent, denouncing Brigadier Nuri as an Iraqi agent.

of Arab states where Britain still The new American and British strategy was to foment had significant influence. Disaster followed swiftly. a military coup in Baghdad. General Hussein Kamel, the In January 1996 American, son-in-law of Saddam Hussein, fled Iraq for Jordan in 1995. The regime in Baghdad looked vulnerable. King Hussein, once close to Iraq, was turning

against his old ally. British participation would be important emphasised that he wanted a coup not a revolution. because Dr Alawi and the Ac-Saddam struck before he cord were based in London and Jordan was one of the handful did. In late June and early July

news began to filter out of Iraq of the arrests of 160 military officers, including 12 from the élite Republican Guard

and three from the Special Re-British, Jordanian and Saudi inpublican Guard which protects telligence officers met in Sauthe Iraqi leader himself. di Arabia to coordinate plans. Going by the execution lists, Dr Alawi moved to Amman. He also began to give interviews broadcasting his intentions. He

the conspiracy against Saddam Hussein had some serious recruits. Among those to die were Staff Colonel Khamis Hadi Ni'mah, commander of

the 6th Brigade of the Presi-

dential Guards Division, Brigadier General Ja'afar al-Tayyar, director of training at the Defence Ministry, and many junior and middle-grade officers. A hero of the Iran-Iraq war, General Tali Ruhayyim al-Duri, fled to Turkey.

The failure of the CIA and MI6 against Saddam Hussein in 1996 marked a turning point in his fortunes. In August he dared send his tanks back into Kurdistan. A year later he felt strong enough to challenge the UN weapons inspectors and provoke the present crisis.

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Saddam said to fear mutiny by army

MOSSAD BUNGLER KEEPS JOB

A COMMISSION investigating the botched assassination of a Harnas

official in Amman last September by Israel's Mossad Intelligence

service found the operation "fundamentally flawed", but refrained

from blaming Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or recommending

him to sack General Danny Yatom, Mossad's boss. Jordan is boy-

cotting all cooperation with Mossad for as long as General Yatom

remains at its head. King Hussein is reported to be furious that Israel has not ruled out attacks on Jordanian soil in the future.

The Mossad operations chief has already resigned. Inspired leaks

from the Prime Minister's office suggest that General Yatom will

be allowed to fall on his in sword six months after he has com-

By Ian Burrell

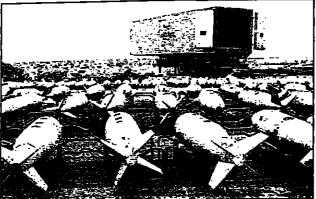
Senior British military sources suggested vesterday that President Saddam Hussein was deeply worried about the possibility of a revolt in Iraq and that his army was suffering from a crisis in morale.

Drawing on the latest intelligence reports, military chiefs said that President Saddam had despatched units from his elite Republican Guard to cities in the Shia Muslim heartlands of southern Iraq to quell possible outbreaks of unrest. They said that the officer

corps in the Iraqi army was becoming "increasingly politicised and that the President was relying more heavily than ever on an inner circle of senior officers from his home region of Tikrit. "Quite clearly Saddam is

worried about the security of the regime," said a senior source. "He is worried about uprisings. Morale is bad within his army and some of his closest circle are unhappy."

Latest intelligence estimates on Iraq's military strength show



its fighting capability has diminished considerably since the conflict of 1990-91. The Iraqi army currently consists of some 400,000 troops with 2,200 tanks, approximately half the size of President Saddam's army in the last Gulf war.

Intelligence suggests that President Saddam has 10 longrange Scud-type al-Hussein missiles, which have a range of up to 372 miles. Iraq's anti-aircraft defences have been reconstructed but are regarded as "less comprehensive" than seven years ago. The Iraqi air force is estimated at some 300

combat aircraft, though sources said they were unlikely to be risked against the superior allied airpower but would be protected to maintain Iraq's comparative air strength in the

Crucially, military chiefs who said that British forces in the Gulf were now "ready to go" - do not believe that Iraq would be willing to deploy chemical and biological weapons against the allies.

That would very clearly show the whole world that they have been making these things and [Saddam] has denied this

Bombs for chemical war awaiting destruction in the last Gulf war, a picture the MoD released yesterday

consistently since before the first Gulf war," said the source. "He is also unsure what would happen ... what the American response would be."

Nevertheless, it was revealed that the Ministry of Defence has sent supplies of vaccines, designed to combat chemical and biological attacks, to the Gulf to be distributed to British forces if

Iraq has produced warheads capable of delivering chemical weapons, in particular mus-

story could be a very chilling

Military chiefs believe that

They also gave more details of the Iraqi biological weapons programme, including evidence that it had attempted to develop tularemia, described as a weaponised rodent disease, 30 times more deadly than anthrax. One source said: "[Saddam's]

one, because he has some quite

Blair to address French Assembly

By John Lichfield in Paris

THE PRIME Minister will become the first British politician ever to address the French National Assembly next month.

Mr Blair is expected to make at least part of the speech in French. If so, he will not be the first British Prime Minister to make a formal speech in France in French but he may be the first to do it well.

Those who have tried it before, with limited success, include Winston Churchill, Edward Heath and most recently, a heavily coached Margaret Thatcher at the opening of the Channel Tunnel works.

The French public has been astonished by the Prime Minister's command of their language in the brief television interviews he has given since he came to office last year. Mr Blair worked in France as a student and has spent several recent family holidays in the South-west of the country.

Although no final decision has been taken, officials in the French Parliament say they understand Mr Blair hopes to give part or all of his speech in

A date for the visit has yet to be finalised but it likely to be around 24 March.

Mr Blair will be only the fifth foreign head of state or government ever to address the National Assembly, the lower house of the French Parliament. His predecessors are King Juan Carlos of Spain. President Bill Clinton, King Hassan II of Morocco and the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi. All but President

Clinton spoke in French. "This is a very new tradition for the assembly," said an official at the French Parliament yesterday. "No previous British

ed because, until the last few years, we never invited heads of state or government to address us in this way."

The formal invitation to Mr Blair came from the former French Socialist Premier, Laurent Fabrus, who is now president of the assembly - something between the Speaker of the Commons and the Speaker of the US House of Representatives. The visit to Paris is also expected to include informal talks with the Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, and the President Jacques Chirac.

Relations between Britain and France have been a little strained in recent weeks by the divergent approaches taken to the lrag crisis. There have also been tensions on European issues, especially the exact nature of Britain's non-playing relationship with the countries who will join the Single European Currency next year.

Mr Blair and "Le Blairisme" retain a mostly positive image in France. The British Prime Minister is a favourite with French centre-right politicians and newspapers, if only as a stick with which to beat Mr Jospin and his more traditional approach to centre left politics.

In the last few weeks, however, there has been a re-examination of the adulation of Mr Blair. The left of centre news magazine Marianne devoted a column yesterday to Mr Blair's reported decision to block the House of Lords' attempt to end the Rupert Murdoch-inspired newspaper price war in

Marianne contrasted Mr Blair's "moralising" approach to politics with what it took to be his cynical decision to retain the support of the Sun___



A Bosnian Muslim woman holds a photo of her son at a demonstration in Sarajevo yesterday demanding action over the missing Photograph: AP

Right wing admits conspiracy against Gonzalez

By Elizabeth Nash in Madrid

The former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez was not being paranoid when he said murky forces were out to get him. A leading right-wing commentator admits he and a clutch of disaffected journalists plotted to oust the Socialist leader after his fourth election victory in 1993, even at the cost of threatening Spain's young democracy.

"It was an assault operation," says Luis Maria Anson, former editor of the conservative ABC newspaper, now Spain's head of a Mexican media company, Televisa. "Felipe Gonzalez was

a man of such extraordinary poput the state at risk in order to



Gonzalez: Said that dark forces were out to get him

break him." Mr Anson's remarks in today's Tiempo news magazine, trailed in El Pais newspaper, appear to vindinecessary to go to the limit and supporters claimed throughout his last term in office: that fer to supposed plans, aired at

his opponents, dismayed when the time, to provoke the abdielections narrowly cheated the conservatives of an expected victory, resorted to a strategy of increasing national tension to achieve his downfall.

Mr Anson's words have reignited a polemic that has rent Spain's chattering classes in recent years, has permeated every media outfit in the country and in which there is now no neutral ground.

Mr Gonzalez said that Mr Anson had revealed a "small part ... of a concerted effort to play dirty", and called upon him to tell the whole truth. "[Mr Anson] knows that the conspirators' plans were much more ambitious" than to replace Mr litical power and skill that it was cate what Mr Gonzalez and his Gonzalez with a conservative government. This is taken to re-

cation of King Juan Carlos and the establishment of a republic.

Mr Anson says that after the Socialists' narrow victory in 1993 a group of prominent radio, television and print journalists met regularly in his office to plan ways of "raising the threshold of criticism ... by probing the world of irregularities, of corruption." These efforts "reached such extremes that they frequently nudged

the stability of the state." In the Tiempo interview Mr Anson admits "Mr Gonzalez was right when he denounced the threat ... but it was the only way to get him out. Not just because of possible abuses he because of the risk there would and escape the punishment never be an alternative gov- they deserve, El Mundo said.

"I didn't like sending my reporters on the road with Gonzalez because they would start off criticos and end up Felip-

him ... I couldn't forget coming out of our conversations thinking: Why must I criticise someone so agreeable, seductive and interesting?" Among those named by Mr

"I myself avoided meeting

Anson is Pedro Ramirez, editor of El Mundo newspaper, which yesterday accused the Socialists of being the real conspirators. They set up the undercover anti-Eta death-squads, the Gal. which killed more than 20

Basques in the early 1980s,

themselves separately". Even assuming a genuine desire to create a single bizonal state, the gulf between the sides remains enormous. But Mr Denktash must contend with the appeal of the economic benefits of EU membership to many

the Turks.

Cyprus divide

narrows

after poll

THE WEEKEND re-election of outgoing President Glavkos Clerides signals an intensified

effort for a Cyprus settlement - amid hints of a more conciliatory line from Rauf Denktash, the hitherto intransigent

leader of the Turkish Cypriots. As expected, Mr Clerides'

victory was paper-thin. The fi-

nal results of Sunday's runoff

gave him 50.8 per cent of the

vote, compared with 49.2 per cent for George lakovou, the

former foreign minister, who

was promising fresh ideas to

heal the division of the island.

split along ethnic lines since the

Turkish invasion of northern

The task facing him is huge

- involving not only the search

for a settlement with the Turks,

but also Cyprus' entry negotia-

tions into the European Union.

"Now we need to get down to

work," Robin Cook, the Foreign

Alas, far from providing a

catalyst for a settlement, the EU

issue threatens to divide the

communities further, with Mr

Denktash insisting that the in-

ternationally-recognised Greek

Cypriot government has no

right to negotiate on behalf of

Yesterday however the Turk-

ish Cypriot leader seemed to

yield some ground. Instead of de-

manding full recognition for his

self-styled Turkish Republic of

North Cyprus, he simply called

for "direct talks" between "two

peoples who have been ruling

Secretary said last night.

Cyprus in July 1974.

By Rupert Cornwell

of his compatriots. That yearning has increased all the more as Turkey's own problems have deepened, and an internationhad committed, if he had, but then tried to cover up the truth | al embargo severs the Northern economy from the rest of the

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The Samaritans

Why settle for Michelin stars when you can have a restaurant empire? Vanessa Thorpe talks to the new culinary kings

Every day Jean Christophe Novelli clambers aboard his moped, checks his mirror and speeds across London to call in, one by one, on each of his four restaurants.

"I have a need to be crazy," says the chef. "I am hyper. I am condemned to be like that. In one day I start at Novelli W8 and then I go to Les Saveurs in Mayfair and then I go in 10 minutes to Maison Novelli in Clerkenwell and then I go to the Novelli EC1 and then to cook at Les Saveurs and then I go back to EC1. And about once a month I go to my restaurant in Cape

With his speedy bike, Novelli, well known for being at the cutting edge of food fashions, is now the most extreme example of the one of the most notable trends in cooking. Many of Britain's most famous chafs are no longer happy with one restaurant in which to display all their creative skills. Now they want to brand themselves with a series of eateries.

Celebrity chefs such as Antony Worrall Thompson, Marco Pierre White and Raymond Blanc enjoy so much acclaim that they are able to build up gastronomic empires at the drop of a bain-marie.

Soon it will be impossible, even at the very best restaurants, to know for sure that a genius - rather than a hired underling has overseen the arrangement of the crescent of wild mushrooms on your plate.

The expansionist trend became firmly established in London last summer when Michelin-starred Marco Pierre White accepted an astonishing seven hotel-restaurant deal to crown his stewardship of Quo Vadis and The Criterion. Since then his bid for domination of the capital has been chala smaller scale, by Alastair Little and Stephen Bull.

Dashing a few miles between different London venues might just be possible, but the chefs are now branching out to such an extent that they are opening restaurants in their name hundreds and even thousands of miles apart. Novelli, for instance, has another in Normandy and even one in South Africa, while Raymond Blanc has just opened a branch in Cheltenham.

The trend has appalled die-hard traditionalist chefs, and foodies too, who fear that quality can only be diluted by such franchising. Gourmets are wondering what can be happening to haute cuisine when one of the masters, Raymond Blanc - the man behind the legendary Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Great Milton, Oxfordshire - is happy to become a brand name.

One critic of the trend, the television



Jean Christophe Novelli: 'I have a need to be crazy. I am hyper. I am condemned to be like that

Photograph: Tom Pilston

lenged by the 36-year-old Novelli and, on Room in Reigate, Surrey, warns that an eminent presence in the kitchen of a top restaurant is part of "a tacit bargain made with the patrons".

> But in these days of the chef-as-showbizstar, the crowds seem to love expansion. Take Blanc's opening of le Petit Blanc in Cheltenham. Four teenage schoolgirls from a nearby convent slipped out of their building, jumped over the wall and ran straight into town to attend the ritzy launch party for Blanc's £850,000 establishment.

> That was one evening when you could guarantee Blanc would be in attendance. These girls were amazing, so determined," he recalls. "The whole launch was absolutely amazing, in fact, especially when you think this place is supposed to be full of retired generals. We were packed out with people who love food."

Blanc was the last man that hard-line chef Anthony Tobin, who runs The Dining foodies expected to be seduced in this way.

"You can hardly accuse me of being imperialist," Blane protests. "I have had many, many opportunities, but until now I have refused them categorically. For 14 years I have resisted all sorts of temptations. I knew that if I left the kitchen I would lose my heart, my core."

He insists that the recent birth of his two Le Petit Blanc brasseries, the first in the centre of Oxford last June, is a different thing altogether. "We don't intend to do a chain. It would be too boring. We just ant them to be the best of their type."

Yet Blanc will admit that he is keeping an eve open for other suitable sites for the brasserie project, which is a joint venture with Richard Branson and Forte.

"We are being much more businesslike than ever before. When I opened another restaurant in Oxford 10 years ago I had a glorious kind of failure. We became much too good," he says, with customary cheflike modesty. "This time we will simply offer

quality and value and I will stay in my kitchen at Le Manoir." This means that visitors to all future

Petit Blancs will be paying for the Blanc concept rather than for any direct involvement from the great man himself. Jean Christophe Novelli, whose venues

have all opened up within the past two years, says he knows that becoming bigger is making him more vulnerable to criticism about the lowering of standards. His salvation, he believes, is in the hands of his staff.

"I know how far I can push. You can feel the potential of your business according to your staff. They are the most important part of the business. I cannot fail with

On a Friday night at his formal and discreet restaurant, Les Saveurs, in Mayfair's Curzon Street, some cracks in the Gallic veneer are evident. The wrong first course an empty Italian restaurant. is brought to one table, while the correct dishes - of trout tartare and a terrine - take

at least three quarters of an hour to ap-

"Of course, it is impossible to be there all the time," says Novelli, "but I rememher one American woman actually tried to sue The Castle at Taumton a few years back, because Gary Rhodes was not there on the Sunday night she visited".

Anthony Tobin argues that the tension between quality and expansion will always be there for a prestigious chef. "They are generally very poor people and, of course, there comes a time when they want to make money. And if they are fair to people, and if they are good, it will work."

Tobin has decided to stick with his own Reigate kitchen but, at the same time, to help run a chain of Italian restaurants with an entirely different cuisine to his own.

"After all," he explains, "you never see

There are still a few purists left though, who, like Tobin's mentor Nico Ladenis,

have stuck to their stoves and stayed in the kitchen. Sally Clarke, of Clarke's in Kensington, is one such, although she suggests that it is all really a question of temperament.

"It is a team effort, but at the end of the day it should be down to me to get it right. It is my fault when we win and my fault when we fail."

After 13 years she has learnt to put Clarke's before everything else. "I know some people like Marco Pierre White, or Alastair Little, choose to spread themselves a little thinner. I guess it is just my problem that I want to be here to watch everything," she says.

Perhaps Raymond Blanc should heed his own words: "Chefs today only talk about how many guests they have and how many places they have. It is very dangerous because there have to be some parameters. A restaurant should be about

'Meeting Mandela was the moment everything clicked together'

REVELATIONS

The time: 1990 The place: Wembley Stadium The man: Jim Kerr of Simple

I grew up in the south side of Glasgow at the beginning of the industrial decline. The writing was on the wall. Shipyards were closing and there was a feeling of fading glory, outside of London we had been the Empire's second biggest city, so I was surrounded by all the symbols of Glasgow's magnificent past. It was a much more naïve

time than now - no heroin -

and there was a lot of love about

between the people who

brought me up. So it's hard not to look back with rose-tinted glasses, but there was a real feeling of community, and values: the world begins at the bottom of your street, it doesn't end there. As it was a major port, lots of people had travelled, and we were building ships that would sail all over the world. It was fed down to us. I learnt that what goes on elsewhere in the world does matter; you can protest and make an impact. My grandfather would tell ne wonderful stories about Intia and South Africa, and his time in the forces fighting in the Second World War. Not surprisingly, my favourite times at school were when we did a project on faraway places such as the Amazon and I was transported away from the life I knew. My father worked on the sites, but he was a voracious reader, so his head travelled. He rebelled against what was meant

to be your lot in Glasgow. It was travelling that helped

me gain a conviction for Simple Minds. My musical partner, Charlie Burchill, and I went hitch-hiking from Glasgow to London to see the Sex Pistols play. We'd heard about a new kind of music and we wanted to check it out. I remember waiting at Newport Pagnell for another lift, and it was the first time I had seen anybody of West Indian descent. I was consumed by the foreignness of everything. It all seemed so exotic to me - even the motorway service stations. I just wanted

to stop and stare. In fact we bypassed the concert altogether. The lifts went so well, we ended up three weeks later in a train station in Milan! Every time we crossed a border, I felt a sense of exhilaration. Up until then we had just sat around talking about forming a band, but the euphoria of this trip pushed us

over the edge. Charlie and I had bonded; with two people you can have your own little revolution and not accept your lot. Individually you can feel mad, but as a couple, the odds of both of you being fruitcakes lengthens. I needed to have a stab at expressing myself, even though 1 wasn't sure what to say. However, if you stick out your thumbs and go wherever the lift takes you it is amazing what can

On a second hitching trip to London, we visited about eight record companies. With all the marble and chandeliers in some of the offices, we felt uncomfortable just leaving our demo tapes with the receptionists. On the way back we saw Bob Dy-



Photograph: John Voos

lan play to 100,000 people which gave us plenty of inspiration. By the time our thumbs got us home, four companies had got in touch. Timing and luck, as in hitch-hiking, were allimportant. The record companies had been so stung by some awful punk bands and a lack of melody that they were hungry for something new. We signed with Arista records, which had hallowed building in Park Lane - this time we came down in luxury on the sleeper train. We were so keen, we stood outside on the pavement waiting

for the offices to open. For a while, the excitement of the journey and our growing self-confidence were enough. However, after achieving global success with Once Upon a Time, I had a hollow feeling. I had just sold 12 million copies of one album, and I was still thinking there had to be more to it than this. CNN and Oprah Winfrey invited us on to their shows: the world wanted to talk to me. Going on to Goo Moming America, it suddenly dawned on me: all those millions of people listening - but do I have anything meaningful to say?

Midway through the show

the interviewer asked me who

my heroes were outside of music. My reply was Nelson Mandela. At the time he was still in prison in South Africa, and I found myself on an antiapartheid crusade before realthinking about it. My grandfather's stories came flooding back, of the beauty of Cape Town, but also how awfully they treated the blacks. I didn't think I had the answers - God forbid - but at least 1 had the questions. Simple Minds didn't leap on to a bandwagon; it was something inherent in us and in our music. We were fundamental to making the "Free Nelson Mandela" concert happen, as they needed a bigname stadium act to beadline. Our Mandela Day became the flagship song for the event. It was hard to write because he really was the man in the iron

mask; there was only one picture, which was 25 years old, and beyond that - nothing.

Following his release and a concert to celebrate his birthday at Wembley Stadium, I finally had a chance to meet Nelson Mandela. It was the Both musically and physically most incredible experience. He I'm still on a journey. These was very playful, which made everybody relax, and he asked me about Glasgow. It was such an easy-going atmosphere, but he said something that I always carry with me: "When there was no voice allowed in South Africa, we could always somehow hear the voice of the artists, which gave us sustenance." It was a fantastically en-

couraging thing to say. The biggest battle I have is with the cynic inside which says: what's the point, who cares? What will you achieve in the long term if you write a song or not? If there's a bad concert review, the next night there are thousand of people shouting for more, and it cleanses you. I can cope with everybody else's negativity, but until I met Nelson Mandela there was no hiding-

place when I gave myself a hard time at two in the morning. He is so right. Artists are always at the forefront of the trouble-makers - look at the Chinese authorities, and their fear that four poets on the Internet will bring down the country. I had a wonderful example of the impact of our music when I met a girl in the lobby of a French hotel who had started a fan club, and because of the idealism in our songs they have created a little orphanage in Bosnia. Meeting Nelson Mandela was a revelation, the moment when everything clicked

together.

again to Nelson Mandela, in front of a vast concert during the World Cup to promote anti-racism. It is still an important cause for us; to this day if I see somebody humiliated it makes me feel physically ill.

be the latest thing but not old enough to be a legend. It will probably take a couple more years before we come back into fashion, but I don't care. up Simple Minds as we go 9 March.

days Simple Minds are in an .along we've still standing on the ugly duckling stage - too old to music superhighway with our

> Interview by Andrew G Marshall

Simple Minds' new single, "Glitterball", is out on Monday; To a degree we're still making the album Neapolis is released on

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Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a Gormley

Andrew Lambirth looks on as Gateshead's 'Angel' finally takes wing

What is the purpose of public art? To please people or arouse controversy? Antony Gormley's Angel of the North rears against the skyline of Gateshead like a crucifixion. What does it represent? Sited atop an extinct colliery, it is intended to symbolise the glories of Britain's industrial past and hope for its future, but does it really do this?

Gormley has said of an earlier version of the piece, entitled A Case for an Angel, that he didn't want it to be symbolic. "I want the work to be as actual as it can be, which is why my version of an angel is a rather uncomfortable mixture between aeronautics and anatomy."

Indeed, this great winged figure looks more like an aeroplane than an angel. From a distance, it appears remarkably modest, though it stands 65ft tall, with

view of it is impeded until you are almost on top of it. From the road, it looks far more speciacular, though a clump of tower blocks is too close for comfort. Seen from its foot, looking up, the sheer bulk strikes home, coupled with an elegance of outline - the profile is meltingly sinuous. But of course it is the scale that principally engages.

Gormley's body-case sculptures, of which the Angel is a gigantic version, are cast from his own body. This might be thought faintly blasphemous when the sculpture is supposed to depict an angelic. being, but no more so than a Renaissance artist painting his girlfriend as the Virgin Mary. Gormley creates a challenging image that is not intended to bring comfort, but to confront existence.

Nothing on this scale has been built in Britain before. Brancusi's Endless Column in Romania stands 96ft high but it doesn't have the mass of the Angel. Yet why did Gormley make the wings so huge? If the figure didn't look so balanced, you'd think they were out of proportion to the body. They act as a kind

a wingspan of 175ft. From the train, a of barrier-like the gate that comes down

The pose is hieratic, like a priest offering thanks to God, but the face, with its lack of features or expression, is vaguely menacing. It's a contradictory sculpture, at once firmly grounded but also aspiring heavenward. Is it neutral or anguished? (Gormley generally does a good line in anguish.) The Angel is isolated. Even suppose it could come down from its hilltop, its wings are too wide to go through the door if you invited it home. It is, in fact, the perfect stuff of legend. Perhaps, like the Cerne Abbas giant it will inspire pilgrimages—but for those seeking enlightenment, rather than fertility.

Perhaps the Angel best signifies the cultural renaissance currently emerging on Tyneside - Gateshead's Baltic flour mills are about to be transformed into a £46m international centre for contemporary visual art, with a Norman Foster concert hall complex adjacent. If the main point is to attract attention to the area and to engage people in debate, the Angel will be a great success.

It would all come out in the wash

That Marthe, she was never out of the bath. It's a wonder that Pierre ever got a look in. But when he did, writes Tom Lubbock, he gave a unique view of a marriage at work

There's a statue of a faithful dog with Marthe sprawled naked, in Edinburgh, but the human heroes of private life get few monuments. What could we have: the tomb of the unknown someone's photo album, how hubby? Well, there's Oprah you'd think "I probably wasn't Winfrey et al, offering a brief pedestal to personal strugglers. But generally our heroes of heart and home are drawn from fiction and the already famous. One of the main reasons we have novels, soap-operas, his sex-life, like Picasso, into tabloids, biographies is to provide such exemplary lovers, couples and families, and the lives of poets are often very good material: the Brownings, Oscar and Bosie, Tom and Viv, Sylvia and Ted, Larkin too (the emblem of a certain kind of single life). And then, from the lives of the artists, there's Pierre and Marthe.

The relationship of Pierre Bonnard and Marthe de bedroom scenes after the ear-Méligny is a

curious art-life cross-over. It isn't a biographical extra to Bonnard's art. Indeed, it offers little overt drama. Pierre met Marthe 1893, when he was 26 and she

was too (though claiming and looking 16). He picked her up in a Paris street, they moved in together, and stayed together till her death in 1942, five years before his own. They married in 1925. They had no children. It's the sort of marriage that, although unconventional then, doesn't get in the papers. And, even with Bonnard's painting, we mightn't be so interested in it

it is the same woman, and the - if the painting itself weren't. same woman who appears But the painting is. The reclothed in so many of the intelationship is far more than riors; and Pierre himself is prebackground - it's Bonnard's big sent in these bath scenes. subject - and to see Marthe as just the artist's model, or his muse, misses the point. Pierre and Marthe become private-life heroes because Bonnard's art specifically makes them so. In fact, it's hard to come up with another major body of work so consistently focused on the life of two people together. (The only parallel I can think of is the work of the Victorian poet Coventry Patmore, one long celebration of his own married life, but the likeness is remote.) So it's as well that the Tate's current Bonnard retrospective is a big one. You need to see how the subject never goes away the sheer number of pictures that concern one man and one woman, their cats and bassethound, the places and the rooms they lived in - and how, through a 50-year span, the the handles painting

relationship. In the show's second room, the liaison is in its early years. and the pictures make one clear assertion: we're having lots of sex - a difficult thing to advertise gracefully to the world, though one sometimes wants to. _ it was all bliss, a paradise - while Look at Indolence (1899) - the facts suggest it must have

supine, post-coitai on a rumpled bed - and imagine coming across a comparable image in meant to see this one" - or "I hope I wasn't" - because that sort of erotic showmanship would be rather nauseating. And, with these Bonnards, it is a fine line. He doesn't convert general sex-symbols. It's definitely this particular woman on show. But Bonnard saves the gambit through an intimacy so absorbed that it becomes unselfed. The viewpoint is clearly his, him standing by the bed ing down, but before him Marthe is lost, in herself and in the sheets that fold her body

There are no more such

wanted to paint bathers - or if

bath-time got as obsessional for

him as it did for her'

be over-stated: the paintings are

not a confessional documentary.

They don't tell tales. The in-

ternal drama of the marriage is

conveyed obliquely, and must

Take the many pictures of

Marthe bathing. One way, they

look like variations on an es-

tablished theme, the "Nude in

the Tub", and that's how Bon-

nard titles them. But evidently

viewpoint of someone who's in

the room too, and close by. And

when you know that Marthe,

due to some mental or physical

complaint, spent hours daily in

the bath, the repeating subject

becomes more than a theme.

The bath seems a refuge or a

prison, and you wonder if this

was a marriage of great conve-

nience for an artist who want-

ed to paint bathers - or if

bath-time got as obsessional for

Criticism of Bonnard's art

easily becomes criticism of his

marriage, and I don't see that

this can or should be avoided,

so long as you grant that mar-

riage-criticism is at least as

tricky a practice. Naturally the

art only gives one side of the re-

lationship (but that's an exem-

plary role too: all anyone has of

their relationships is a one-

sided view, how you deal with

that one-sidedness is the issue).

And then the paintings, with

their saturating colours and

sensory plenitude, seem to say

him as it did for her.

to an extent be read in.

into their light.

been miserable, or miserably unequal, a sorry sort of shutaway mutual bondage, with her (on some accounts, basically a nutcase) wholly dependent on him, and him a dubious martyr, needing and nursing and using her dependence. What does that do to the

pictures? Make their intense plenitude claustrophobic, or the sign of an all-infusing, alltransfiguring love, or a resolutely denying and thriving fantasy? Perhaps rather an intimacy and habituation that can hardly tell the difference between these things. Marthe is everywhere, visible and invisible. Bonnard deals in Mary Celeste still-lifes and interiors, which carry a human pres even when there is no person there, and in a kind of picture puzzle - there is a woman concealed in this scene, can you

find her? where Marthe either lurks inconspicuously You wonder if this was a marriage of but insistently, great convenience for an artist who as a dim profile just inside the painting's margin, or is incorporated so thoroughly into the colour scheme that

ly 1900s. But the point shouldn't her figure, though central, is barely discernible.

Sometimes he has both effects, Mary Celeste and "Find the Lady", together. I was looking at White Interior (1932) for a while, thinking "How's he done it? How does he get such a strong feeling that someone has just gone out, and will shortly return?" - something to do with the relationship of the orange chair and the white door - and then I saw that she was in fact there, nearly in the middle of the picture, but hidden by the way, bending behind the table to play with a cat, she virtually blends with the carpet. indicated by an intruding leg, or Bonnard famously said he again just by a viewpoint - the

wanted his paintings to give the impression of someone just entering a room, an optical overload, more than can be taken in at a glance. Here that's just what happens. You go through the sequence thinking first "She's definitely around somewhere", and then "Ah, Marthe, there you are!" - or more cool-"Oh, there she is". For Marthe's pervading presence needn't be felt as a simple blessing; maybe as inescapable. Always around - that can be said in several tones of voice, and paint. Bonnard paints her in so deeply that he almost paints her

out, and thereby shows that paint her out, he can't. When Bonnard is alone, in his self-portraits - if you can call them that, because they're always the view in some mirror in the home, a moment of reflective solitude, not a set-piece selfimage - he seldom looks happy. In the one called The Boxer (1931), you see a puny man beating his fists in a tantrum. In one of the last, after Marthe's death, Self-Portrait in the Bath-



Photograph: Private Collection, Paris

room Mirror (1946), he looks like a dead man himself. And the late bath-scenes, painted before and after she died, are rather frightening fantasies.

Marthe's body never ages, but it acquires distortions that neither water nor a wide-angled view can explain. It floats corpse-like, it dissolves into its liquid cocoon and into the ainting; in the last one of all, into a sea of sour metallic hues no one would call paradisal. One hardly likes to speculate what mixture of grief, remorse, nostalgia and resentment is to be fathomed here. An exemplary marriage: an abyss. The only clear image in this final picture is the basset, heraldic on a bright square of bathmat - as if to say, the man may be lost, but the dog at least is simply faith-

ful to the woman's memory. To 17 May, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SWI (0171-887 CLASSIFIED

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.When members of an orchestra invite young patients to make music, the subdued sounds of the hospital give way to joy. By Clare Garner

THE CHILDREN sat in a cir- and spark their imaginations. cle, wired to their drips, looking wan and apprehensive. Some were more severely ill than others, but they had in common the fact that they were

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"I want you to try and imagine a very different scene to the one you're in now," ventured Duke Dobing, a flautist with the City of London Sinfonia. "It there was no electricity, no ra- and music," concluded Duke. dio, no television and, no music." Young Daniel Flaherty's sic, Pan unwittingly invented a head crept up from underneath medicine. The therapeutic powthe sheets like a tortoise coming out of his shell. He propped It was first described in the himself up in bed and tuned in.

For a hour last Tuesday afternoon children from the paediatric ward in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, in west ill. The chapel where they were search has since suggested that acongregated was transformed into a communal concert hall. as a cacophony of sounds swirled about the ceiling and the children gave themselves up to of Pan and Syrinx to music. "Do

This was "The Music that Heals", a one-hour workshop run by four musicians from the City of London Sinfonia or- the collection of percussion inchestra. They are run monthly, for children, the elderly, expectant and new mothers, and HTV patients as a therapeutic

room, relating the Greek legend rection of Daniel's bed. of Pan and Syrinx, just as a father would read a bedtime sto-

Pan, the god of fields and woods, fell in love with Syrinx, a nymph, but Syrinx "didn't feel the same at all". Syrinx turned herself into a reed in order to hide from Pan. And then Pan heard something he had never heard before - the wind blowing through the reeds. He picked a reed, not realising it was the very one which Syrinx takes place in ancient Greece. had turned herself into. "Pan at hundreds of years ago, when one go had invented the flute

Along with the flute and muer of music is well-documented. Bible, when David played the lyre to Saul and he was "refreshed, made well and the evil spirit departed". Even 2,000 years ago, flute-playing was London, quite forgot they were said to ease sciatica; modern remusic releases endorphins, the brain's painkillers.

Back in the workshop, it fell to the children to set the story you think you could make some hoofy noises with that?" asked Duke, selecting some brightly coloured "kids" bongos" from struments spilled out on the floor. "We thought this would be good river musio," suggested Christine Jackson, a cellist with the City of London Sinfonia, Duke sat in the middle of the wheeling a xylophone in the di-

Daniel, six, looked distinctly dubious. He slunk back, al-



him. He tentatively stroked the reed noises and whistling. The poignant in the circumstances. her, she added. "I didn't think golden tubes with his fingertips and was rewarded with a singing, tinkling sound. He did it again. And again and again.

Daniel was not alone in being shy at first, but with a little encouragement the children all banged and shook their instruments, sometimes at a fast and furious pace, and at other times gently. "Now we need our mys- far-away expression. terious water music on its own," instructed Duke. Daniel responded by running his fingers do you think you can learn up and down the xylophone with - from that story?" asked Chrishuge, expansive sweeps, lost in tine, after telling the tale. "I'll

send the children to sleep, but to beneath the covers again. But once they embarked on a cho-ing, in the very end they are knowing the different stories." since the Seventies. It is unusual ation of British Orchestra's Naawaken them from their ill state his curiosity got the better of rus of frog noises, swishing better." Such a moral was

occasional interruption of a bleep from a drip was the only reality check.

Suddenly, one boy looked desperate. His bandaged arm was hurting and the musicians were quick to catch on. He put down his instrument, but he didn't want to leave. Instead he sat and listened, quietly, with a Next came the story of the

hare and the tortoise. "What tell you: that some of us take nice actually, playing lots of mu-"What have you forgotten?" longer and work harder. Some sic and that. When you start asked Duke. "What about mak- of us are lazy. The people

At the end of the hour-long workshop Duke thanked everybody for being "a fantastic orchestra". The children smiled. They were exhausted, but contented. Daniel said that he had

been happiest "when I was do-

ing the rivers," but that he had also enjoyed "the rabbit one". Lily, 13, who had had an "external fixator" taken out of her leg the previous day, said she had had reservations about coming to the workshop. "I thought it would be a bit boring," she said, "but it was quite

playing music, you get into it. It

about my leg at all," she said. "I just carried on with the music. It sort of relaxes you."

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The hospital workshop is just one example of the activities undertaken by orchestras across Britain, be it in hospices. prisons, residential homes or schools. During National Orchestra Week, which runs from 9-15 March, more than 30 of the country's professional orchestras will perform to the public free as a mark of their commitment to interacting with the

hospital to be built in London 600900, and ask for the Associ-The music had distracted in that it integrates the visual tional Orchestra Week.

community

and performing arts into healthcare. All the funding for the arts is privately raised from individuals, businesses and charitable trusts.

Susan Loppert, director of the arts project at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, has masterminded the interactive arts programme. "What we're doing is not therapy," said Ms Loppert. "They are not music therapists, but it's therapeutic. It's part of the philosophy of the hospital, which is positive and

Chelsea and Westminster To find out more about orches-Hospital, which opened in 1993, tral activities in your area, ring is the first new NHS teaching Freephone Talking Pages on 0800

A Porton patient for seven days' pay

WHEN the Government announced it was opening a telephone inquiry line for the 20,000 servicemen who acted as ill-informed guinea pigs at Porton Down Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment in the Fifties, I decided to call. It was my chance to discover what I was exposed to as an 18year-old national service-

It was in 1952 at an RAF base just outside York that I read that an extra week's pay would be given to volunteers willing to go for a week to an establishment on Salisbury Plain. And to get there meant travelling first to Londou, my home town, providing me with the opportunity of two consecutive

BRYAN BREED

weekend leaves. It was in that casual manner that thousands of young men endangered their well-being. Some have maintained that subsequent illnesses have been linked to their expe-

There was no verbal mention of nasty things like nerve or any other toxic gas, chemical or biological warfare, but together with the 20 or so other fresh-faced youths I joined that Sunday in deepest Wiltshire I was asked to sign a piece of paper stating that I was offering my services willingly.

That first evening we attended the Naafi and spent some of our extra week's pay on a concoction called black velvet. There was scant discussion of why we

On the first occasion I was called into the laboratories I was asked to sit outside a chamber the size of a small room and breathe some through a mouthpiece which protruded from its glass wall. On the second occasion, two or three days later, I went for a blood test. I felt nothing except the prick of a needle.

The guinea pigs have now been told they will be sent a summary of their records, providing it is considered that doing so will not breach security. I feel fine, even nearly 50 years later, and I am merely curious about my own particular inhalation, but the helpline operator said she is doubtful whether they would tell me what it was.

I suppose, speaking personally, if you've waited all those years to know, another year or two won't matter. But for others among the 20,000 it might well be a matter of life or death, or at least a more comfortable last few years.

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As an emergency, an itch doesn't come up to scratch



DR PHIL HAMMOND

can I do for you?"

"Itchy bum." "Splendid. Were you aware

"Well in my book, that ain't an emergency. Burn on fire, fine. Burn concealing baby crocodile, fair enough. But itchy burn, no. Good day."

clever, don't you?" "Clever enough to know you

can wait until Monday." "But this is an emergency. You told my son he had

He brought one in to show me in a Playdoh jar."

"MORNING Mr Jacobs. What "Well I haven't kept it - it as the dreaded schistosome ing to lose any sleep over."

that Saturday morning surgery told my wife the whole family is for emergencies only?" crawling around inside me."

"Oh you think you're so

blood during sex."

"Anywhere special?" "My back, mainly. So she Your son does have worms.

live in the bloodstream - such "I don't believe you.

was only a threadworm. Noth-

'How can you say that? You was probably infected - I haven't slept since, thinking of all those horrible little things

"They're only in your bowels." "You told my wife that the eggs can get under the finger-

"Well, the wife's got long fingernails and she likes to draw

could have passed eggs straight into my bloodstream, right?" "Look, there are worms that

fluke - but threadworms only survive in the intestines."

threadworm?" "It looked like one." "But you didn't send it to the

lab, for conformation?"

"So you were guessing?" "Look, it wasn't a fluke." "Why not?"

"Because flukes are flatworms with oral and ventral suckers. This worm was a

thread." "It could have been a fluke fluke."

"Also, schistosomes are unheard of in Walthamstow,

whereas threadworms aren't." "So how did Lance get it?" "Probably from nursery."

"That's a shame." "Wby?"

"Because he's settled in re-"How do you know it was a ally well at Mrs Pope's." "You don't have to take him

> out of it." "No son of mine's learning to read in a wormn hole."

"Look, threadworms are no big deal. Five-hundred-million people on this planet have got them as we speak. Many have no symptoms at all and others

just have an itchy bum." "But surely Mrs Pope should have spotted the worm in Lance's lunch?"

"You don't swallow the worm, you swallow the eggs." "And where are the eggs?" "Like I said, under someone's nails."

"How do they get there?"

"Well, the adult worm lives in the large bowel but pops out to lay eggs around the anus."

"I've heard enough." "But the good news is that nearly all patients are cured by a single dose of wormicide - and you can buy it over the counter to avoid troubling your doctor on a Saturday morning."

"I don't like giving the kids drugs."

"Well, if you cut everyone's nails, wash the eggs off bedclothes and towels and have scrupulous personal hygiene, the worms die out after a month

"That's a bit of a fag." "Or just live and let live." "But I'm itching like mad.

Does that mean I've definitely

"No, it could just be that the suggestion you might have them has brought it on. If you can't find a worm in your stool, the best way of making the diagnosis is to sleep with Sellotape around your tail end, to catch the eggs as the worm pops out at night to lay them. Now, if

"Do you sell Sellotape?" "No. Bye bye," "One more thing. Why did

that's all..."

you call the schistosome dread-

"Good grief. Because the eggs get stuck absolutely everywhere - in your bladder, in your liver, in your lungs, in your brain .. it's not pretty ... Mr Jacobs? Come back! Look, I've got some cracking photos of it in Post Mortems Weekly ...'

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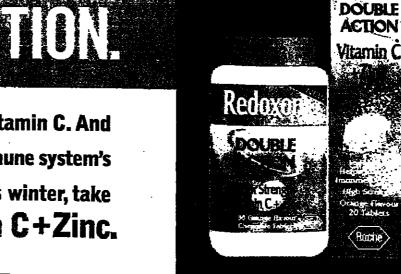
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VITAMIN C+ZINC MAY BENEFIT SOME YOUNG WOMEN.





Mr Straw should think again. The judiciary has a real role to play



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Jack Straw thinks British policemen are wonderful. So wonderful, indeed, that he is minded to turn down the Hillsborough Victims' Support Group in its demand for a fresh inquiry into the stewarding of the ill-fated game by the South Yorkshire police force. The Home Secretary, however, does not think British judges are anything like as wonderful. He stood up in the Commons yesterday to say as much. Of course he did not use those exact words - he does, after all, rely on judges to make the criminal justice system work. What he said was that British judges cannot be trusted, they don't have much common sense. That, at least, seems a reasonable interpretation of his remarks about the press, privacy and the Human Rights Bill.

The European Convention on Human Rights, which is being incorporated into British law, contains two clauses especially relevant to the activities of the media and the citizen. One broadly asserts the right of citizens to privacy (especially against the state) and the other asserts the right of the press to report widely and freely (especially against abuses of power by the state). For every claim a public figure might make under the privacy clause, the press has a valid counter-claim under the press freedom clause ... provided reporting has been in the public interest. There is a lot of legitimate ground between the two. "I think," said Lord Bingham, Lord Chief Justice, last autumn, "this is difficult and debatable territory. "Quite so: the courts are going to have to weigh contending principles and make fine judgments according to the merits of the cases before them. Is there really any good reason for worrying about the fitness of judges to effect a balance?

There is a case for saying we should not wait for the haphazard process of building a privacy - and press freedom - law by fits and starts. A draft Bill promoted by newspaper editors is in circulation which seeks simultaneously to establish a right of privacy and a right of investigation, in the public interest. Mr Straw would win friends - not least in our quarter - if he picked that up and ran with it. instead he seems to be going off at half cock. To judge from yesterday, he has been persuaded by tendentious and self-righteous arguments from right-wing newspapers and the rightwing peer who heads the Press Complaints Commission, Lord Wakeham, that a "right to privacy" is somehow dangerous. The courts - this presumably will be the effect of a proposed government amendment to the Human Rights Bill - must not be allowed to define the PCC as a public body and entertain suits which try to force the PCC to uphold its own rules about invasion of privacy by newspapers.

If that is the Government's position, it is half-baked. It is no excuse that Mr Straw's boss, the Prime Minister, seems to have been nobbled by ecclesiastical interests who seem to think, in their divine wisdom, that bishops and ministers do not have nor should be troubled by human rights. The Government seems to be forgetting what it said, eloquently, in Opposition.

The problem is why people are motivated to go to the courts for redress. Judges are invited to adjudicate cases of invasion of privacy because citizens despair of the political process. It is when people decide, rightly or wrongly, that they are not going to get justice from Parliament or goverriment offices that they turn to the courts. During the Thatcher and Major eras, Labour spokespeople applanded this development, and the growth of judicial review that it encouraged. They implied that if and when they got to power, people would once again start trusting the political system and so the call on the courts to redress wrongs would be lessened. Will they? The answer lies in Labour's hands: the faster it gets on with the job of parliamentary reform and modernisation, the smaller the scope for the judges.

Litigiousness is not some epidemic disease. Britain does not have to go down the American road and see its social and political life corrupted by a plague of court cases. Take schools, recently infested by lawyers. Having rid them of corporal punishment, parents and teachers were left confused over exactly when and how discipline demanded "force" to be used on recalcitrant pupils. ("Pupils" these days is a category including hulking great teenagers of both sexes, strong and often angry: pity their teachers.)

Hence the new guidelines published yesterday. These will never be enough to prevent a bloody-minded parent going to law. None the less, they represent the way forward. The Government is making positive law in order to clarify right and wrong; it must also seek to alter the climate of opinion, to carry parents and teachers (and children) along with it. Nothing here is going to stop anyone seeking to apply the provisions of the Human Rights Bill - but they will affect the judicial and social climate within which they are actionable.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number.
Fux 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS



TODAY, Britain and France table their proposal for a European Union Code of Conduct on arms exports. Could Europe finally be about to place principles before profit in decisions on arms exports?

EU countries account for 40 per cent of all arms exports to the developing world. All too often, countries suffering from dictatorial regimes, poor human rights records or other forms of social instability have filled their armouries with European technology. In fact, developing nations have increasingly become the weapons industry's main target market. The easy availability of European arms has enticed many Third World nations to spend more on weapons than on health and education programmes, further depriving already impoverished and suffering populations.

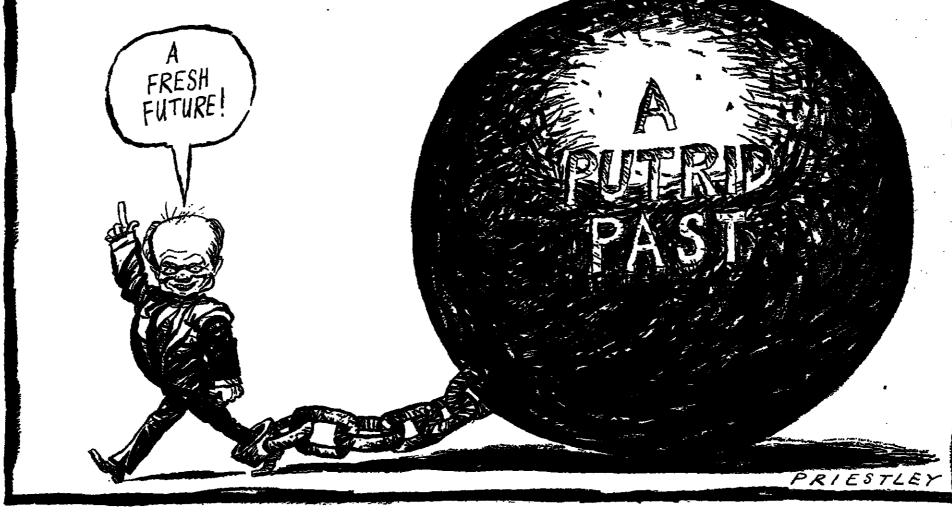
We firmly believe that controlling the irresponsible sale of weapons is central to alleviating many of the devastating international social problems we face today. For this reason, a demanding European Code of Conduct would be of great imortance The British government must be commended for its initiative.

But if the Code is to bring real reforms, it must go still further. We are concerned that there are a number of loopholes in the proposed country criteria. To be truly effective, the Code must have guidelines which are more restrictive and explicit: in addition, it must be accompanied by clear consultation procedures, common end-use controls and increased parliamentary scrutiny and ac-

We consider a demanding European Code of Conduct to be an essential building block for the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers a proposal which we Nobel Peace laureates have formulated with fourteen of our colleagues. As the EU begins debating the British and French proposal, we greatly hope that they will seize the opportunity to make a significant contribution to international human rights, development and security by insisting on a strict Code of Conduct that will serve as a model for the rest of the world.

Dr OSCAR ARIAS Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1987 Professor JOSEPH ROTBLAT Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1995 JOSÉ RAMOS-HORTA Nobel Peace Prize Winner 1996

London WC2



Strike on Iraq

ROBIN COOK ("We must act", 14 February) asserts that the aim of any military action against Iraq would be to diminish Saddam Hussein's ability to deploy, conceal and recreate his chemical and biological weapons.

Does the Foreign Secretary seriously believe that such military action will break Saddam and force him to comply with the US-dominated inspection teams? Think how many can be killed by a single dumb bomb and think of the fateful coasequences of a sustained military strike for the innocent Iraqi

It is impossible to eliminate Saddam's weapons of mass destruction without eliminating Saddam himself. How can you be sure that Saddam's ability to produce biological weapons is diminished when these weapons can be produced and concealed in room-sized basement laboratories?

The Foreign Secretary bimself said on 20 January that Iraq is still manufacturing enough anthrax each week to fill two missile warheads. This production was continuing while the inspectors had been uncovering and dismantling these weapons of mass destruction. Saddam has already spent years evading the inspectors and has forgone billions of dollars in oil revenue that he might have had. So he will continue to evade and a military strike is not going to stop him. Clearly the best alternative would be to have inspectors who can inspect, i.e. broadly based and not domi-

In the long term a new political strategy is needed. This strategy should be based on supporting a democratic alternative to Saddam, no more punishment to the Iraqi people, implementation of UNSC Resolution 688, trying Saddam as a war criminal and helping the Iraqí people to hold free elec-

nated by representatives from

the US.

Dr MOHAMED AL-RUBEAL Iraqi Democratic Movement Woodford Green, Essex

AS in the First World War, the aims of war against Iraq are clear but the means are so hopelessly ill-adapted to achieving them that

the war itself seems pointless. It is not hard moreover to discern an irrational motive a personal animus against Saddam Hussein and a desire to inflict bumiliation on him regardless of the effects on others, of the degree of international support and of longer-term policy priorities. Only thus is it possible to make sense of the US refusal to concede an inch on sanctions - the obvious diplomatic way out. Personal vendettas are no substitute for a proper policy. NICK MARTIN-CLARK

ROBIN COOK's article contains a breathtaking assertion: that "the stability of the entire region is at risk" from Saddam Hussein. I doubt it; but it certainly would be if the knee-jerk boys in the US get their way and Saddam is toppled. There would be an unholy battle over the corpse of Iraq with Islamic fundamentalists, Sunnis, the Shias and the Kurds bidding for support. Talk about the mother of all wars...

KEN CLARK

MANY people, to judge from letters in your newspaper, feel upset that military action against Iraq is being considered.

Never mind the starvation and deprivation that the Iraqi people endure, Saddam Hussein continues to build up his personal wealth regardless. So there may be some bombing of his seven (or is it eight?) palaces. I have no problem with this. SIMON GARDINER

Croydon, Surrey Privacy law

YOUR report "PM against privacy law" (12 February) reveals some very confused thinking on this topic at the heart of government.

Upon the incorporation into British domestic law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), there will be both a right of privacy and a right to freedom of expression. UK judges will have no choice but to balance these rights in any particular decision, effectively creating a tort of breach of privacy with a defence of legitimate public interest; in so doing, they will have regard to the existing body of case law

Cancer treatment

WE are assessing the impact of

receiving aromatherapy mas-

sage or relaxation therapy, used

alongside conventional anti-

cancer treatments, on patients'

quality of life. We are not at-

tempting to see if these thera-

pies provide an alternative to

conventional anti-cancer treat-

ments. So we are keen to re-

dress any misunderstanding

conveyed by the headline "Nat-

ural therapies to be tested as

cancer cure" (23 January), de-

scribing our planned trial. In

fact, all the patients being stud-

ied will have advanced cancer,

i.e. their cancer cannot be

Director of Studies, Liverpool

Professor of Liaison Psychiatry,

Guy's & St Thomas's Medical

Senior Lecturer in Clinical

Oncology, Mount Vernon

Dr SUSIE WILKINSON

Marie Curie Centre

& Dental School

Cancer Centre

Dr JANE MAHER

Professor AMANDA J

cured.

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under the ECHR. In extreme cases, where damages would be an insufficient remedy, the court could prevent publication by injunction; but all the experience of defamation law suggests that

such cases would be rare.

It would be wholly wrong for such an extreme power of prior restraint to be exercisable by a voluntary body such as the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). Indeed, following the incorporation of the ECHR into UK domestic law, the usefulness of the PCC may well be called into question generally, as Sir Louis Blom-Cooper rightly observed, "Self-regulation will always protect the self." PHILIP GOLDENBERG Woking, Surrey

OXFAM'S protest about tax deductions for arts projects (letter, 13 February) refers to current patterns of charitable giving. The present balance of giving to the top 500 voluntary charities is dramatically weighted against arts, recreation, youth and education. Together their annual revenue amounts to £54m - just 3 per cent of the total of £1.76bn. International aid receives £378m and animal protection £133m.

Save the arts

To redress this balance Lord Birkett and myself, and many others, lobbied for several years for a national arts lottery. Its aim was to bring to the UK the enhanced emotional life which the practice of the arts can help to stimulate. In addition we sought a balanced physical life, with enough recreation to keep people healthy, and thus reduce the state's huge health bill.

To see £133m going to animal protection but so little to the shaping of balanced lives here is to understand why our crime rate is so high. Young people without a habitual pattern of filling their spare time with useful hobbies, artistic expression and sport can fall into

drink, drugs and criminality. Now is the time to redress this balance, which is one reason for the formation of our charity. Oxfam's work is invaluable, but it needs to be complemented by the protection of the quality of living habits for all here and now, which can transform the social habits of the whole country. **DENIS VAUGHAN** Executive Director

Council for the Advancement of the Arts, Recreation and London WC2

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Dangerous women

ON learning that the British Boxing Board considers women unfit to fight because they become "emotional and vulnerable during periods" ("PMT makes women unfit to box", 13 February), I found myself worrying about the clearly unsuitable jobs that women have been allowed to get away with for so long, such as supervising and educating young children, ministering to critically ill patients, and operating potentially dangerous electrical equipment such as cookers, irons and sewing machines. SHIRLEY COULSON .

My philosophy is to get your kit off – for operational reasons of course

London NS



From time to time I like to bring you a roundup of new words or new usages in current English, a kind of part-work glossary, and I think it is time to offer a few more examples of the way in which English is changing as we move towards the millennium.

Absolutely: A mild form of "yes". Docudrama: A kind of television programme about a famous person, of whom there is so little film footage available that an actor has to be hired to impersonate him.

Editor: 1) In television and film, a very minor person whose job it is to make sure that all the pictures sort of fit together. 2) In radio, a very important person who controls The Archers. 3) In the press, a very very very important person who does exactly what the proprietor wishes.

Epic: An adjective meaning, filmed in several different countries at enormous expense Icon: 1) A small drawing on a computer screen 2) Any person whose great days are over but who is still admired by any other person, as in "Shirley Bassey is a gay icon", "Vidal Sassoon is a hairdressing icon". "The Queen is a royal icon", etc.

Iconic: Said of a comedy show which is slightly different from its predecessors. Irish: Name given to new pubs with shiny wooden facades in Rome, Tel Aviv, Beirut,

Stockholm, etc. Islam: A kind of religion whose adherents believe that God listens to them five times a day.

Kit: Trendy new term for clothes, as in "Get your kit off", Kit and the Widow: Presumably, widow's weeds. Literature: This used to mean a whole cel-

lection of great novels, poems, plays, etc, but now it means a small pile of brochures, as in "Shall I send you some literature on that?" Mic: A new abbreviation for "microphone". It is starting to take over from

"mike", as in "Open Mic contest". Nobody

quite knows what has caused this development, as "mike" was a perfectly good abbreviation and did at least look like the way it was said, which "mic" doesn't. Maybe it has come about because "mic" is the written abbreviation on tape recorders.

Millennium: AD 2000 is said to be the millennium, because it is the year that marks the end of the 20th century. However, the original meaning of "millennium", was 1,000 years, so whatever we are celebrating must be something that happened 1,000 years ago. However, nothing happened in AD 1000. The only thing that anyone really seems to want to celebrate is the birth of Christ, which was 2,000 years ago. So millennium must now mean "a period of two thousand

Mobile: This used to be a kind of revolving sculpture that dangled from the ceiling, but is now just a toy telephone. Monitor: A verb meaning, To ignore, to do nothing about, to treat with apathy, as in "We are monitoring the situation on a 24-hour basis".

Operational: Unfathomable, unknowable, mystic, awesome, as in the announcement: "We are sorry for the late running of this train. This is due to operational reasons."

Oxymoron: Sudden fashionable alternative for "contradiction in terms". Philosophy: The thinking behind a football manager's actions. Eg. "My philosophy is to win matches by beating the other side, but I think it's important to entertain as well, and also to buy a foreign footballer with a funny name whom the home crowd can be-

come fond of". Power: This is the new term which has replaced "On/Off" on machines.

Quote: This is quite different from a quotation. A quotation is something witty or stylish which has been repeated so often it has gone into the language. A quote is a brief soundbite from someone famous which is picked up by a researcher and handed to an interview for discussion, as when Ned. Sherrin says to a visiting actor: "I rather liked" your quote the other day when you said that playing Hamlet was like trying to remember the sort of person you'were 10 years ago", and the actor can't remember having said it and doesn't have the faintest what it means, but has to discuss it anyway, because it's a "quote".

Milton Keynes.

Buckinghamshire

Scientist: One who can explain how life began 10 million years ago but has no idea how BSE began 10 years ago.

Something: A curious expression which used to be a swear word (as in "You something something!") but is now a number (as in "Thirty-something" or "Forty-some-

thing") Tribute: An obituary on television.

(To be continued.)



DONALD MACINTYRE PARTY REFORMS HAVE EFFECTS

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It's a curiosity of the rules unveiled yesterday for electing the Conservative leader that had they been in force when John Major stood down, William Hague might not have had the job at all. Ken Clarke was easily the most recognisable of the available candidates outside Westminster; he came out well on top in the polling of constituency chairmen, and would probably be Leader of the Opposition under the one member one vote ballot envisaged in yesterday's blueprint of a new party organisation. And a lot would therefore now be different - not least the view Tony Blair would be taking of how difficult it would be to win a referendum on a single currency. This may look like a pointless "what if", to be left to the seductive world of virtual history. But it illustrates an important truth about the restructuring of the party achieved by William Hague in a few months as leader. The changes will have a real world effect quite out of proportion to the scant attention they will receive outside the Conservative Party at a time when that party is deemed not to matter.

They also, broadly, live up to the claims Hague is making to be an unexpectedly fast moving and determined party reformer. In organisation, if not yet in policy, Hague has shown that he has learnt a good deal from the cautionary tale of Labour's attempted - and very nearly successful - suicide by slow poisoning after the 1979 election defeat. He has moved a party with not the slightest culture and history of membership democracy to a one member one vote system. And he has done it without the painful transitional stage in which power in the Labour Party in the early 1980s was seized from the MPs only to be handed to the most determined activists instead. It's easy to mock some of the conclusions of the so-called membership survey which preceded yesterday's paper. It's hardly surprising, for example, that 98 per cent of Tory members agreed "that a Single Party should be created with one constitution and common standards of performance and integrity". It's rather more so that even 2 per cent were prepared to flirt with the implicit alternative, that it would be better for Conservatism to be several parties with conflicting constitutions and varying tolerances of incompetence and corruption. But behind these banalities lurks an impressive effort to revitalise a desperately aged and shrunken party in which Hague has taken on some of its most entrenched interests - including a deeply self-important backbench parliamentary leadership - and emerged in most

cases unscathed. A lot of this, of course, was borrowed directly from modernised Labour and from the Liberal Democrats. Both of these had long realised that you don't recruit to a modern political party unless the members have a share of the power in return. True,

the main change is limited to the election by the full membership of the leader from a shortlist of two chosen by the MPs. And yes, despite claims to the contrary from Hague's circle, the new system is likely to make it somewhat more difficult to unseat the leader. First, 15 per cent of MPs - anonymously if they wish - have to seek a no confidence ballot, and then the leader has to go if he fails to secure a simple majority and will not be able to stand in the subsequent election. But given that the membership tend to favour the incumbent - and may therefore pick the potential successor politically closest to him or her - some of those most hostile to an unpopular leader may, paradoxically, be wariest of replacing him. What's more, the very fact that the membership will now have a voice may make the parliamentary party more cautious. But that hardly makes Hague invulnerable (disastrous results even in next year's Euroelections could put him in some danger) or wrong to bring the members into a choice which neither of the main parties now leaves to its MPs.

In other cases the internal democracy may be more Leninist than real. But that is hardly so different from Labour. The plebiscite on the manifesto will be, like Labour's, a demand by the leadership for endorsement by acclaim from a wider membership of proposals over which it has had only the most limited influence. (Given the vociferousness of the pro-EMU minority in the party, it may actually be a rather livelier affair than Labour's was before the 1997 election.) Democratic centralism lives too, in a practical and little noticed proposal designed to ensure that wholly unsuitable candidates are not picked by local parties in by-elections. Just as the Labour NEC can impose shortlists, so Conservative Central Office will now provide - for the first time a list of selected candidates from which local parties have to choose. Although constituencies parties will be able to seek approval for a favoured local candidate this is a limited but significant erosion - entirely consistent with New Labour behaviour - of

constituency autonomy.

Labour yesterday made a great deal of how the changes would not include one member one vote elections to the the party Board - the nearest equivalent to the NEC - or to the party conference. And it's a sign of the cultural resistance to internal democracy in the Tory party that the survey exposed only limited demand for it. But the Labour attack neatly glosses over the fact that both the NEC and the party conference are becoming, by Tony Blair's explicit design, less rather than more influential in the formulation of policy. There is another reason, too, why Labour may seek to mute its criticism of Hague's new proposals: by avoiding a complex and inherently unstable electoral college for the party leadership elections, Hague has been able to boast that the electoral system will genuinely be one member one vote. Labour's, by contrast, still includes a 33.3 per cent share of the vote in leadership elections for the trade unions. One effect of Hague's changes will be to make, once again, the institutional influence of the unions in the Labour Party an issue of public debate.

It used to be said that Margaret Thatcher's reforms - particularly, but not only, those which democratised the trade unions - helped to save the Labour Party from itself. The changes which Hague announced yesterday are a necessary but not a sufficient condition of a recovery which cannot yet be guaranteed. But it may also be that - this time by example - Labour's modernisation will in turn, and in time, help to save Conservatism from itself.

A Cassandra who had much to teach an aspiring war reporter



ANNE **McELVOY** WOMEN AT THE FRONT

Like a lot of first-time war reporters, I set off for my first battlefield in the disintegrating Yugoslavia with Martha Gellhorn in my mind and my luggage. My mother had given me a dog-eared copy of A Stricken Field as a kind of talisman because she associated her with

When people have that quality, it is hard to believe that they are mortal. One of Martha's closest friends said of her yesterday, "I just never thought she'd die." This was her ninetieth year. But somehow, dying did not become her.

In The Fuce of War she wrote, "War is a malignant disease, an idiocy, a prison, and the pain it causes is beyond telling or imagining; but war was our condition and our history, the place we had to live in." It still is. She left us on the brink of yet another war and we can already write the script she knew so well from Spain, from the Second World War and Vietnam - cratered earth, suffering civilians, human shields, bombs, bombs and more bombs. For all the talk of surgical war and precision targeting - "official drivel", she called it - the results on the ground are remarkably unchanged.

It is the eternal, messy, uncontrollable quality of modern warfare that she evoked so well - that and the fact that whatever the rights and wrongs of a particular conflict, we fail our fellow men and women if we do not look upon the human horrors as well as the victories and defeats of conflict.

Her idea of the most imoutside world does not get to know the fate of the casualties.

Her subject was not only war: it was the people of war, the civilians caught up in the strategy of generals. "I thought it would be fine," she wrote in 1939, "if the ones who order the bombing and do the bombing would walk on the ground some time and see what it is like". She had an amazing capacity to retain scores of images in her mind at once from a place she had been in for a short length of time and then to string them together in a coherent whole. Not since Joseph

Conrad has anyone combined the skills of novelist and reporter so productively.

In later life, she remarked that she belonged to the "Federation of Cassandras", for she had come to have little faith in the ability of journalists to prevent evils. Still, she had "no time for that objectivity shit", and expected reporters to make moral judgements on what they saw. The responsibility to report remained, nonetheless, and she advised newcomers "to limit yourself to what you see and hear and not suppress and invent".

To that extent, she was a product of the photographic age (and she loved photography). For her, the reporter was the written equivalent of the camera's shutter. The immediacy is apparent from the first page of any report of hers you read; her technique of heaping images fast, on top of each other, looks easy – until you try it.

Sitting in the restaurant of the Esplanade hotel in Croatia in 1991 reading A Stricken Field, it was eery how the mood recalled the novel's powerful opening description of a hotel dining room on the eve of war in Europe 40 years before: the sickly excitement, the competition for sources, the hum of egos: the hyperactive, edgy atmosphere. The most fitting collective noun for a group of journalists holed up together is an insecurity.

As a role model for women journalists, she was unbeatable. When I first tried to freelance from Eastern Europe as a student, I found a world of journalistic bureaucracy, faithfully replicated not only by the Communist authorities but by the correspondents themselves. Old hands said that there were places you couldn't go and people you couldn't see because



Martha Gellhorn, in 1944, reporting from the Italian front

From this I learnt that the single greatest advantage of being a woman in wartime is that seriously, which means that

the teeming Channel just before D-Day. She was also unafraid to admit to her fear, which takes you are less likely to be taken real courage, particularly for women who suspect that they

an anti-American streak in her which was as unbending as it was instinctive. Of the unified Germany, she remained profoundly and, it seems to me, unfairly suspicious, trapped in the perceptions of 1945.

But it didn't matter. You could read and learn from her humanitarianism, be fired by the power of her writing and her haunting sense of place even if you didn't share her sturdily socialist view of the world.

Her last piece of "war reporting" was from Wales last year, where she returned to one of the scenes of the miners' strike and vividly described the aftermath of battle between less and clever, like a general - and Arthur Scargill - "a poor bloody infantry who paid the price. We will always need

I learnt from Martha Gellhorn that the single, greatest advantage of being a woman in wartime is you are not taken seriously

thing called "accreditation". I you want without arousing ful than their male colleagues. didn't really know what that was moral war was one in which the and was damn sure they And any young reporter can wouldn't have given it to me learn from her that the worst ments. To the end, she refused

> Then I read Gellhorn's description of setting sail in a hospital ship for D-Day after her husband Earnest Hemingway had swiped her accreditation: "A military policeman stopped me and asked me my business and I said I was just going to interview the nurses, the women's angle, for Colliers, the American magazine I was working for. Nobody gave a hoot about the women's angle. It served like a perfectly forged passport. As soon as I got aboard, I found a toilet and locked myself in."

more than passing curiosity. on rules which have been exwhat is really happening.

Geilhorn was always honest about the gaps in her knowledge - far more so, it seems to me, than a lot of women writers on war today who feel that in order to be taken seriously. they must appear to command the language of military expertise. "Battleships, destroyers, transports - I know nothing of ships," she writes in the middle of her brilliant description of

in the tax relief granted to

donors to the arts offset by a fall

in public expenditure. The cul-

tural institutions would experi-

ence the reverse of this - more

funds from individual donors.

less from the state. But even in this preliminary situation, I

think the arts would be better

placed. Their sources of fi-

nance would have been

diversified. And they could feel

themselves more masters of

their own destiny, less

dependent upon government

tions would find out whether

adopting the American method

of tax deductions for private

donors would allow them to do

better than break-even as com-

pared with the present arrange-

no ceiling. The harder any in-

stitution worked at raising funds

ments. At least there would be

Then the cultural institu-

you didn't have this mysterious you can get on with doing what will be regarded as more fear-I did not always agree with

Gellhorn's political assessthing you can do is get hung up to acknowledge the extent to Margaret Thatcher - "ruthwhich the carnage of Spain pressly formulated to waste and the slaughter of the Interyour time and divert you from national Brigades was engi- fool". Once again, it was the neered by Stalin for his own purposes. I don't suppose I would have agreed with her voices to remind us of them. about the justifications for war Hers was the brightest and the against Iraq either - there was one we will miss most.

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from individuals, the greater the reward. Some institutions would	for your free prospectus, use the coupon or call
flourish in the new circum- stances and some would not.	Send for your free prospect
But the failures could hardly complain, as Greenwich Theatre does today, that the system itself was unfair. Let the debate continue. The main difficulty for me at the	Send to: The Open University. PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MIC Please send me a copy of the Courses. Diplomas and BA/85 Please send me a copy of your postgraduete prospectus. have contacted the CU before. YES/NO Rise Initials Sumame
what sort of bargain could the	Address
Chancellor he offered miss	Postcode

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The best way to save the arts is to remove the single payer



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH CHARITY TAXES

This newspaper's campaign to persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reform the tax system along American lines and thus "Save the Arts" has got off to a good start. The letters in support are developing the argument and identifying key sues. Daily newspapers can indeed work with their readers to

change government policy. It is important to see clearly what the American system comprises. The US government itself gives little directly to theatre companies, orchestras, museums and the like; instead they are supported by individpal donations which, up to very high limits, qualify for tax relief. in effect the government helps the arts by providing donors with a tax deduction.

.

There is a further point about the American example that its British supporters need to take on board - it is not confined to donations for the arts. Any giving to any charity qualifies for tax relief. This must be correct. I do not see how the arts in the United Kingdom could be given tax advantages that were unavailable to other types of charitable activity. This point was raised by the financial director of Oxfam, David Nussbaum, in a letter to the editor published on Saturday. He was right to argue that the campaign requires consideration across the voluntary sector. And his further point, that such a widening could undermine the covenanting system under which Oxfam now receives numerous small-scale donations, would have to be met.

On the other side of the Atlantic, then, arts institutions survive if, by networking, they can attract a sufficient number of individual backers. In effect there is a free market in donations supported by tax relief. If individual A turns you down, you go to B, and if not B, then to C and so on. In this country, if they are to obtain the funds they need, cultural bodies must persuade the relevant committee of the great and the good and its officials. Everything may depend upon a single source. Failure to convince one body can be fatal. For instance, my

fellow columnist on these pages, Trevor Phillips, as chairman of the London Arts Board, has had to take the agonising decision to withdraw the grant upon which the Greenwich Theatre depends. It will probably close down as a result.

It is because I greatly prefer the liberal, unbureaucratic system in the US that I wholeheartedly support the campaign. I also know that there is no chance that this country will follow the Continental pattern, where national or regional governments handsomely support cultural institutions. To see what

probably now outclass the equivalent rooms in the British Museum, which had the reputation of being the best in the world outside Cairo.

I had hoped that the Lottery would be an effective British way to achieve similar results. Indeed the arts have greatly benefited, so far as new buildings are concerned, but they nevertheless find themselves in a traditional quandary. It is much easier to find the funds for premises than it is for running costs. The same problem faced our Victorian ancestors when they wanted to erect new churches

state support at its present levels, even if the Government allows a switch to the American system of tax deductions for private donations. They want it all; no "either/or"

I think that this is unrealistic. The best way of persuading the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make a change is to offer a bargain. I would say to Gordon Brown that if the state would funnel its help to the arts by means of an easy-to-use system

of tax deductions for individual donors, scrapping the many restrictions that the Inland Revenue currently imposes, then the

On the other side of the Atlantic, arts institutions survive if, by networking, they can attract a sufficient number of backers. In effect, there is a free market in donations

this means, readers need only visit the hugely ambitious refurbishment and expansion of the Louvre Museum in Paris which has just been completed or travel to any regional capital in Germany and go to the local opera house. These countries hold the arts to be a public good which the state or local government naturally finances. The neglect of the British Museum would be inconceivable elsewhere in Europe. As a result the Louvre's new Egyptian galleries

in the fast expanding cities. Businessmen who had done well out of the Industrial Revolution could be persuaded to cover the costs of bricks and mortar - and stained glass windows. But it was much harder to get them to underwrite the salaries of the vicar and curate

and other running costs. Being in a similar situation. the attitude of the cultural institutions is that, as well as receiving lottery funds, they

To begin with under this Exchequer and on our cultural institutions alike would be neutral. From the Government's

increased private giving thereby stimulated should in time allow the whole apparatus of the Arts Council, with its grant giving powers and expensive overheads, to be wound up. This, after all, is the American pattern - generous tax relief, little state

scheme, the effect on the British should also continue to obtain point of view, it would see a rise voluntary sector?

What sort of bargain could t Chancellor be offered which would, over time, provide a net benefit for cultural institutions

without harming the rest of the

The second secon

Martha Gellhorn

one of the finest war corre- mother, whom she described as spondents of the 20th century. a "wonder", was a believer in ex-She learnt the craft of war re- cellence and a campaigner for porting in the Spanish Civil female suffrage who managed grew up politically: "We knew, we just knew, that Spain was the place to stop Fascism," she strongly about the disadvansaid. "This was it. It was one of taging of women, something those moments in history when there was no doubt."

She was in Spain with Ernest she became in 1940; he dedicated For Whom the Bell Tolls riage to, Hemingway (they were divorced in 1946), quite rightly wanting to be her own person and not part of the house she built for them in Cuba became the Hemingway

Although Gellhorn did not actively seek out war, her passhe said, you "operate on a basis of functional schizophrenia - you can't stand it for anybody else but yourself ... I liked having no possessions, no problems, and you never knew if you were going to be alive the next day and that was immensely interesting."

She saw the function of a reporter as one of seeing and hearing as much as possible. This accurate record could then be passed on so as to be seen, heard and felt by others. "Journalism is education for me. from there covered the Sino-The readers, if any, may get some education too but the big Second World War as the "necprofit is mine. Writing is payment for the chance to look and time in her life encountered learn." She was a natural and highly intelligent writer who She went to Dachau with the libcombined being able to write eration troops and described it with having something important to say. In later life when she worst abomination of man, saywas being bullied to write her ing afterwards, "I'll never forautobiography, something she always refused to do, she said that she might possibly write one iust about her sex life, because that was all that anyone would be really interested in.

MARTHA GELLHORN was her father was a doctor and her War, and it was then that she to lure people into doing good. Geilhorn was never to like the stridency of feminism, but felt she, with three brothers, never suffered from.

She left Bryn Mawr College, Hemingway, whose third wife in Pennsylvania, out of boredom, and, after jobs on the New Republic and the Hearst Times to her in 1941. She rarely talked Union, spent a period in Paris. about her time with and mar- In 1934 she returned to the United States and worked for Harry Hopkins, head of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. She travelled Hemingway bandwagon. The round America seeing how people existed in the Depression and reporting how the relief was working. For a while she lived in the White House at the request of President and Mrs sion for causes and sense of out- F.D. Roosevelt, both of whom rage meant that she wrote about she greatly admired, referring most of the wars which hap- to Mrs Roosevelt as "a moral pened in her life. In wartime, true north" and the person she most valued after her mother. The Trouble I've Seen, a collection of tales which drew on her experiences during the Depression, was published in 1936 with a preface by H.G. Wells. who referred to her as a writer with "an instinctive directness. Her articles were so good, but and vigour".

During the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 she worked for Collier's Weekly, and it was for the same paper in 1940-41 that she went to China. She wanted to see the Orient and Japanese War. She saw the essary war, but for the only problems as a woman reporter. as the "circle of hell", and the give the Germans. Never,

Martha Gellhorn was born out of a sense of rage, feeling. The Heart of Another (1940). public in 1929. But the marriage passion, but even as an old 1991; marriage dissolved 1963); died in St Louis, Missouri, in 1908; as an American, personally re- Liana (1943), The Wine of As- did not last and she did not mar- woman she could travel rough. London 15 February 1998.



Gellhorn: You never knew if you were going to be alive next day. That was interesting' Photograph: Topham Picturepoint

sponsible for what happened. so critical, that no newspaper in the US dared to publish them. Eventually the Guardian published five of her reports, effectively ending her career as a war correspondent in Vietnam; she never got another visa. She was so passionately angry about the American involvement in Vietnam, "this unforgivable evil", that it drove her into a writer's block made of "solid concrete". It was the worst time

Fiction, which she believed had to be sound on place, always played a large part in her life. She found it much harder to Much of the best war re- write, but used it as a therapy porting she ever did was as a to forget about war and to freelance from Vietnam in amuse herself. Her novels in-1966-67. She covered the war clude A Stricken Field (1939),

of her life and she barely wrote

anything between 1969 and

tonishment (1948), The Lowest Trees Have Tops (1967) and three novellas - The Weather In Africa (1978).

She always enjoyed travelling and Travels With Myself and Another (1978) is her "account of my best horror journeys". The View from the Ground (1988), a selection of articles written during six decades of peacetime reporting, which includes a piece on the trial of the war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1960, is an eloquent testimony to her convictions and pathological passion for the truth. The Face of War (1959) is a collection of her war reporting from Spain, Finland, China and the Second

World War. In 1948 she adopted a son and in 1953 married Tom Matthews, the former editor of luxury and lived in rather Spar-

ry again, saying she was much happier being single.

Gellhorn had a great gift for friendship, with both men and women, although she did like to be the centre of attention and, whilst being a good talker and listener, she did not suffer fools. hating stupidity of both thinking and feeling. Being her friend one woman described to me as "one of the great privileges of life". She was funny, generous, well-read, a prolific letter-writer and very beautiful, being both tall and elegant, and she went on minding about her appearance into old age.

She bought a flat in London in the 1960s which she used as a base for the rest of her life; she was not concerned about

if necessary, investigating the US involvement in Panama in 1990, aged 81. She had no interest in domesticity, although she was impressed by other people's cooking; if you went to lunch with her you would often have to take your own sandwiches. She loved and needed the heat and was an inveterate snorkeller.

Francois Mauriac's saying "Travail, opium unique" served her all her life and she maintained her curiosity and convictions, despite failing eyesight,

Sarah Anderson

Martha Ellis Gellhom, writer: born St Louis, Missouri 8 November 1908; married Bertrand de Juvenel (marriage dissolved), 1940 Ernest Herningway (died 1961; marriage Time magazine, whose secretary tan surroundings, only spending dissolved 1946), (one adopted son she had been on the New Re-money on travel, as an abiding 1948), 1954 T.S. Matthews (died

Bob Scribner

the English-speaking world in the field of German Reformation history. His research transformed our understanding of how the reformers' message was able to win over layfolk who were deeply wedded to the practices and rituals of the Catholic faith, however much they criticised the Church as an institution and the behaviour of individual priests.

Scribner argued consistently that the Reformation was not an event, but a process, beset by contradictions and reversals. in which the responses of layfolk played as creative a role as the reformers' theology itself.

These insights were first developed in his major study For the Sake of Simple Folk: popular propaganda for the German Reformation (1981), in which he discussed the importance of visual and oral communication alongside print (for too long regarded as holding the key to the Reformation's dissemination and impact). But he also insisted on the complexity of such media: visual propaganda works at several levels; it needs to be read as a system of signs; its semiotics require careful decoding.

None of these findings would have been possible if Scribner had not been so well grounded in cultural theory and anthropology. He subsequently elaborated the ideas in a vast outpouring of research: at his death he had published nigh on 90 articles, as well as editing numerous collections of essays.

This extraordinary achievement can only be properly assessed against a background which had more than its share of adversity. Scribner was born into a working-class Catholic family in Sydney; his grandparents had been German immigrants on his father's side. Irish on his mother's, and it was his grandmother who took on

responsibility for his upbringing. After winning a place at Sydney University, where he majored in history, he was appointed as teaching fellow on the recommendation of Bruce



Scribner: single-minded

Mansfield, who encouraged him to embark on historical research. In 1967 he gained a first class master's degree, with a thesis on the social thought of Erasmus. At that time Australia was being rapidly drawn into the conflict in Vietnam, and Bob Scribner belonged to the circle of radical Catholic teachers and students who voiced the first opposition to the war and

to the military draft. Although he enjoyed his time at Sydney University (ac-

BOB SCRIBNER was the lead- complished houser), Scribner ing scholar of his generation in could see that his future lay elsewhere. He came to Europe in 1968, spending nearly two years as a research student in Marburg and Freiburg (picking up German on the run, as he put it), before embarking on a PhD in London under Geoff Dickens, he worked as a night porter to help finance his studies. Even then, he shunned the easy option by choosing to work in the Thuringian city of Erfurt, at that time in the German Democratic Republic. The bureaucratic obstacles to archival research in the way of anyone(not a party member were formidable, as was the cost of accommodation at "tourist rates".

His first academic post, with very heavy teaching duties, was at Portsmouth Polytechnic. Yet by the mid-1970s a string of path-breaking articles, combining meticulous research with broad theoretical interpretation, began to appear. In 1979 Scribner moved to a lectureship at King's College London, where he spent a not very congenial two years among colleagues deeply suspicious of his sociological approach to religion.

With his appointment to dectureship in Cambridge in 1981 and a fellowship at Clare College Scribner at last began to gain the recognition he deserved. That culminated in his promotion to Reader in 1993, having already been awarded a prestigious two-year research readership by the British Academy. But it was with his move to a chair in the Divinity School at Harvard in 1996 that at last the prospect beckoned of being freed from administrative chores and undergraduate teaching to concentrate on research and supervising more graduate students than had been possible at Cambridge. Within months of arriving in Massachusetts, however, cancer of the oesophagus

was diagnosed. Those who saw Bob Scribner in his last days will not forget the exemplary courage and clear-sightedness with which he faced the end. His iron will and intellectual charity (underpinned by a quiet faith) never deserted him. The single-mindedness with which he pursued his scholarly vocation - he was one of the hardest-working men his friends had ever known - at times placed strains upon his family.

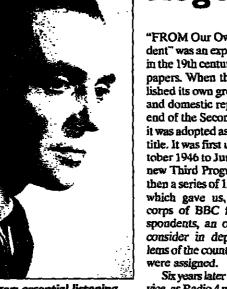
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derful openness and informality. He never set himself up as an authority, or expected to be treated with professorial reverence. Rather, he was a constant enquirer, eager to share his curiosity and enthusiasm. That is why he was such a goofteacher. He wrote, not to create tablets of stone, but to engage in dialogue, to be part of a process; just as he viewed the Reformation itself.

Tom Scott

Robert William Scribner, historian: born Sydney 6 September 1941; Lecturer, Portsmouth Polytechnic 1972-78; Lecturer, King's College London 1979-81; Lecturer, Cambridge University 1981-93, Reader in the Social History of Early Modern Europe 1993-96; Professor of Divinity, Harvard University 1996-98; married 1972 Robyn Dasey (marriage dis-solved), 1989 Lois Rutherford (oneson, one daughter); died Arlington, quiring a reputation as an ac- Massachusetts 29 January 1998.

Roger Lazar



Lazar: essential listening

"FROM Our Own Correspon- revived the title for a new Sundent" was an expression coined in the 19th century by the news-minute contributions which papers. When the BBC established its own group of foreign and domestic reporters, at the end of the Second World War. it was adopted as a programme title. It was first used, from October 1946 to June 1949, in the skill at briefing correspondents new Third Programme. It was then a series of 15-minute talks ideas for foreign coverage he which gave us, in that first corps of BBC foreign correspondents, an opportunity to ested in international developconsider in death the problems of the country to which we

Six years later the Home Serfor 13 years. vice, as Radio 4 was then called,

day morning series of fivebegan on 25 September 1955 and continues to this day on the World Service. From Our Own Correspondent owes its reputation to Roger Lazar. He was not its first editor, but through his overseas and his fund of established the programme as essential listening for all interments. With breaks for his own assignments abroad he edited From Our Own Correspondent

Lazar celebrated the 25th

Correspondent by editing a selection of its more noteworthy contributions, which was published by the BBC in 1980. It included a long central essay by Thomas Barman, the former diplomatic correspondent, who was given the whole programme, on his retirement, to reflect on the changes over 40 post-war years.

Lazar's family had suffered under the revolutions at the end of the First World War. His father was Romanian, his mother was from Minsk, and the family was naturalised British in 1925. Roger was born in Paris, sent to St Paul's School newly independent Nigerian 1998.

anniversary of From Our Own in London, and then to Uni- Broadcasting Corporation help versity College, where he ob- in setting up a news service. On tained a journalistic diploma. At his return a year later he became the outbreak of the Second World War he joined the Correspondent. London Auxiliary Fire Brigade. He was invalided out with a back injury in 1941. He then two years in a Reuters/Press

> Bush House and rapidly rose in the European Service's news hierarchy. In 1948 he moved over 1961-74; married Louise Duffell to the foreign side of domestic radio news, becoming a Foreign Duty Editor. He was seconded to Nigeria in 1959 to give the

Service in Evesham as a sub-

the editor of From Our Own He retired in March 1974 but was engaged for a further

joined the BBC Monitoring Association post.

Lazar was transferred to Roger Lozor, rodio journalist born Paris 4 March 1914; Editor, From Our Own Correspondent, BBC (marriage dissolved), 1939 Dorothy Quait (marriage dissolved), 1961 Marie Cremona (one son, one daughter); died London 13 February

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

BAMBERGER: Mavis (nee King). On 12 February 1998, peacefully at Leis-ton Old Abbey, Suffolk. Much-leved wife of Manfred. Treasured by all her family and friends. Private cremation. GUTTSMAN: Willi. Former Librarian of UEA, after a long illness. Va-lerie, Janet, your family and friends

will miss you.

PAPPE: On 14 February 1998 peacefully in a Hove Nursing Home, Hellmun Otto, Dlur, aged 91 years.

Formerly of the University of Sussex. Husband of the late Vera Pappe. Cremation on Wednesday 18 February, Downs Crematorium. Bear Road, Brighton at 2,15pm. No flowers by request. All enquiries to Attree & Kent, 108 Church Road, Hove. Telephone 01273 821985.

Armouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriagus, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Carsary Wharf, London EM 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 46-50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing and are charged at 410 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Sir Derek Andrews, former senior civil servant, 65: Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman, Palestine National Anthority, 69: Mr Alan Bates, actor, 64; Mr Jim Brown, actor, 63: Dr Julia Browne Kuschbach, former Editor, Journal of the Panel Society of Medicard Journal of the Royal Society of Medi-cine, 103; Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP, 64; Mr Tom Clausen, former chairman and chief executive, Bank America Corp. 75; Dr Gordon Cook, physician, 66; Miss Angela Eagle MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Environment, 37; Miss Maria Eagle MP, 37; The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Lord-Lieutenant of Fife, 74; Lord Foot, solicitor and conservationist, 89; Miss Pruncila Gee, actress, 48; Mr Bernie Grant MP, 54; Mr Barry Humphries, entertainer, 64; Sir Gordon Jones, former chairman, York-shire Water, 71: Mr Richard Kennedy, Head Master, Highgate School, 49; Mr Andrew Leigh, General Manager, the Old Vic. 57; Miss Julia McKenzie, actress and singer, 57; General Sir John Mogg, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 85; Professor Dr Claire Palley, former Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 67; Mr Gene Pimey, country and western singer and composer, 57; Baroness Rendell of Babergh (Ruth Rendell), crime novelist, 68; Miss Patricia Routledge, actress, 69; Lord Shyan of Hadley, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 68; Mr Graham Stringer MP, 48;

Director, WRNS, 76; Sir Anthony Wilson, former head of the Government Accountancy Service, 70.

Anniversaries

Births: Arcangelo Corelli, composer, 1653; Ronald Arbuthnott Knox theologian and essayist, 1888. Deaths: Giordano Bruno, philoso-Deaths: Giordano Bruno, philosopher, burnt at the stake 1600; Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), playwright, 1673; Sir Donald Wolfit, actor, 1968; Graham Vivian Sutherland, painter, 1980; Evelyn Laye (Elsie Evelyn Lay), actress and singer, 1996. On this day: the draising, a foretuner of the bicycle, was notented to Barno Kerl um Drais de patented by Baron Karl von Drais de Saucrorun, 1818; Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera was first produced, Rome 1859; Puccini's Madame Butterfly was first produced, Milan 1904; the inner tomb of Tutankhamen was opened at Luxor by the team led by Lord Carnarvon, 1923; a majority in the House of Commons decided that Britain should join the Common Market, 1972. Today is the Feast Day of St Evermod, St Finan of Lindisfarne, St Fintan of Clonecnagh, St Loman, The Seven Servite Founders and Saints Theodulus and Julian.

Lectures

Tate Gallery (Roland Penrose Lec-ture): Professor Richard Wollheim, "Painting, the Eye and Language"

tate of Thatsport, atomés the Pejasus Aveth time at Manchaster Auport; and its Chancab den University, attents the Cor, and Guilds Ass Private at the Goldstoffs Hell I on

Changing of the Guard

LAW REPORT: 17 FEBRUARY 1998

Conditional fee agreement poses no special risk

Hodgson and others v imperial Tobacco Ltd and others; Court of Appeal, Civil Division (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord justice Aldous and Lord Justice Chadwick) 12 February

A lawyer acting under a conditional fee agreement was at no greater risk of being personally liable for the costs of an action than one acting under any other fee arrangement. Proceedings in chamber were not, generally, secret, and save in the exceptional cases where they were secret, disclosure of judgments or orders and comments on proceedings in chambers was not improper.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the plaintiffs in litigation against cigarette manufacturing companies against the refusal of an order debarring the defendants from seeking an order that the plaintiffs' legal representatives be responsible for the costs of the action, but allowed the plaintiff's appeal

parties and their advisers from about the litigation without leave of the court.

claimed damages from the defendants, alleging that the cancer from which they suffered was caused by smoking cigarettes. They had been refused legal aid, and had entered into conditional fee agreements (CFAs) with their legal advisers. At a directions hearing in chambers on 10 October 1997 the plaintiffs' legal advisers, concerned at the risk that they might be personally liable for costs in a case where the plaintiffs were not insured, indicated that unless they had certainty as to any such liability it would not be possible for them to continue to represent the plaintiffs. They according-

judge did, however, make the "gagging" order. Daniel Brennan QC, Brian Languaff for lawyers acting for a legally of the public who sought to at-

ly sought the "debarring" or-

der, which was refused. The

against an order preventing the Herner (instructed by Leigh, Day & Co) for the plaintiffs; Jonathan Playcommenting to the media ford QC, Andrew Pryme QC, Charles Gibson and Toby Riley-Smith (instructed by Ashurst Morris Crisp) for Approximately 43 plaintiffs the first defendant; Justin Ferwick QC, Janet Turner QC and Tom Weitzman (instructed by Simmons & Simmons) for the second and third defendants.

> Lord Woolf MR said that there was no reason why the circumstances in which a lawyer acting under a CFA could be made personally liable for the costs of a party other than his client should differ from those in which a lawyer who was not acting under a CFA would be so liable.

The plaintiffs' lawyers were in no different position than if they had been acting for a legally aided client with a nil contribution. In that case the plaintiff's lawyers would be an equally prominent target for an application that they pay the costs personally. There did not appear to be any precedent for when requested. If members

order. There was no doubt dated, the judge should conthat the judge had been right to refuse to make the order.

accord with the usual practice in the Queen's Bench Division, interlocutory directions for the conduct of the litigation had been made in chambers. The defendants relied on that fact in support of the "gagging"

The public had no right to attend hearings in chambers because of the nature of the work transacted in chambers and because of the physical restrictions on the room available, but, if requested, permission to attend should be granted where practical. What happened during proceedings in chambers was private, not confidential or secret, and information about such proceedings could, and the judgment or order pronounced should, be made available QC, Robin Oppenheim and Richard aided client seeking a debarring tend could not be accommo-

sider adjourning the proceedings in whole or in part into The present litigation was of open court, or allowing one or great interest to the media. In more representatives of the press to attend the hearing in chambers.

To disclose what occurred in chambers did not constitute breach of confidence or amount to contempt as long as any comment which was made did not substantially prejudice the administration of justice. The above did not apply to the exceptional situations identified in s 12(1) of the Administration of Justice Act 1960 or where the court, with the power to do so, ordered otherwise. In the present case the risk of the administration of justice being interfered with by communications with the press was far less than the risks which would follow from interference with the entitlement of the media to obtain information about the proceedings. The judge had accordingly been wrong to make

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the "gagging" order. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

The Queen and The Duke of Enforcer's interh with the extremen and directors of Contra & Co., 40 Serand. London W.C.: The Duke of Reinhards bods a receptor at Buckington Palese to mark the opening of the Lamberth World Felths and Development Dislagate. The Arthur More Contract of Wales, President, the Penne's Thust. The Proceedings of Wales, President, the Penne's Thust.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Children, wais the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sck Children, St Michael's MS, Bristolt opens the refurbaled facilities at the Territorial Amy Centre, Whitelandes Rout, Bristolt and as Patron, the Alexandra American Princes Reyal, Past President, the Chartestel Insi-lute of Transport, astends the Pennsus Artalion Le-teres in the Athentic Suite, Manchester Airport, Gronto-Manchester vs. Desarts

Commandant Mary Talbot, former

Somerfield in talks with Kwik Save on £1.2bn merger deal

By Niget Cope City Correspondent

The consolidation of the supermarket sector took a dramatic step yesterday when Somerfield and Kwik Save announced they were in talks that could lead to a £1.2bn merger. The deal would bring together two of the weakest players in Britain's cut-throat food retail sector which is increasingly dominated by the likes of Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway.

Both Somerfield and Kwik Save have been struggling to maintain sales and market share in the face of increased compeition from both the "Big Four" supermarkets and the low price continental discounters such as Aldi and Netto. Kwik Save in particular has been plagued by falling sales, a weak brand and a poor store portfolio.

A combined Somerfield and Safeway would be Britain's fifth largest supermarket group with 1,400 stores and combined sales of £6bn. The new group would account for 7 per cent of the UK grocery market, behind Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway. It is therefore considered unlikely that the deal would run into regulatory problems. Somerfield is thought to envisage substantial benefits in increased

buying power and reduced costs. The City was unimpressed Somerfield and Kwik Save say- group PDFM. Both have been ing it would only delay the problems of the two groups. "There may be some short-term benefits but the longer term growth potential is still difficult to identify," said Frank Davidson, food

retail analyst at ABN Amro. Paul Smiddy at Crédit Lyonnais Laing said: "I am not overwhelmed by the logic of it. It seems to indicate that neither company can finder a bidder." Another said the deal would still be a distant and very weak fifth behind the big players. "I know there are a lot of global mergers going on at the moment," one analyst said. "But this really is nothing more than a tiny pimple by comparison."

The announcement follows constant speculation that Asda and Safeway are still considering a deal after news of proposed merger talks between the two leaked last September. That deal foundered on regulatory concerns.

A merged Somerfield and Kwik Save is unlikely to trouble the big players unless it starts undercutting significantly on price. But it will increase the pressure on other "second tier" supermarket groups such as Iceland, Morrisons and the Co-op.

It is thought that the catalyst behind the talks were the major shareholders in Kwik Save, which include Dairy Farm

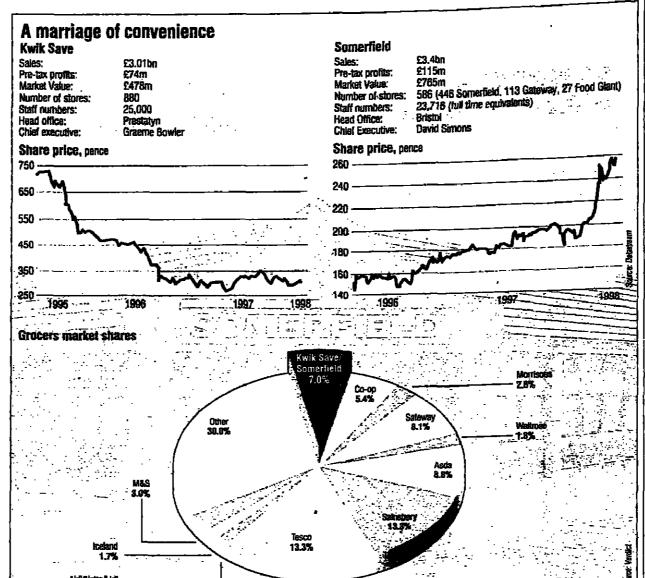
concerned about the performance of their investment as Kwik Save shares have slumped from 843p to 307.5p since 1993. Talks between the two companies started late last year.

The deal is certain to lead to store closures and job losses. There is thought to be a store overlap of around 200 outlets which may be closed. One head office is also likely to close with further cuts in distribution and administration. Analysts estimated that the cost-cuts could vield savings of £50m-£100m.

It is not yet clear whether both trading formats would be retained though it is thought that Somerfield will be the dominant partner with some Kwik Save stones being rebranded. It is possible that Kwik Save name would be retained as a discount offer together with Somerfield's Food Giant stores which compete at the lower price end of the market.

Though announced as a "nil premium" deal it is clear that Somerfield would be the dominant partner. David Simons, Somerfield's chief executive, is likely to head the enlarged group as Kwik Save's chief executive Graeme Bowler has already announced his intention to step down in August.

If the merger is structured as a "newco" - which would with the prospect of a merged and the fund management take over both groups - it



would trigger significant share options pay-outs to Somerfield directors. At the current share price, Mr Simons is holding paper profits of £970,000 on his 869,000 options. He also holds 1.1m options under a longterm incentive plan.

Kwik Save has been a disastrous performer in recent years. In November it announced an 18 per cent fall in profits to £74m and a six per cent fall in like for like sales. It has spent millions of consultancy fees to Arthur Andersen

and has been looking to roll-out done well since the former its "New Generation" stores with better store lay-outs and lighting as well as more ownbrand ranges. It has also been closing some of its worstperforming stores.

Somerfield shares have

S&N buys 311 pubs for £206m

Gateway business struggled on to the stock market in August 1996. But it, too, has found difficulties in increasing sales and has been closing around 30

Outlook, page 21

Thorn warns on profits as chief makes shock exit

By Andrew Yates

Thorn, the troubled Radio Rentals group, announced the shock departure of its chief ex- Mr Marshall said. ecutive yesterday and warned be at the lower end of market and was not under any pressure expectations. Investors took from institutions despite the afright, sending the shares down b per cent to 146.5p.

been Thorn's finance director Metcalf as chief executive. Mr handed back to shareholders. Metcalf will receive a pay-off of around £350,000, equivalent to one year's salary.

Mr Metcalf was expected to remain to oversee a vital strategic review at Thorn designed to reverse a dramatic slump in its share price since it demerged from EMI, the music group. But he surprised the market by deciding to leave before this review had been completed.

"A lot of work has been done and we will make a decision on the future of the com-

months. Mike had to decide whether to see through the implementation of the plans or hand over to somebody else,"

He insisted that Mr Metcalf slump in the group's value. Analysts believe Thorn is

Steve Marshall, who has now likely to break itself, with some of the proceeds from its Mr Marshall confirmed that one option under consideration was the sale of Rent-A-Center, which is a market leader in the US with more than 1,400 stores.

Thorn admitted vesterday that it was facing further litigation worries in America over the terms of rental contracts. The group faces new law suits in New York, Alabama and Massachusetts having already been ordered to pay \$127m (£75m) in damages in two US states. The group will have to wait at pany within the next few least six months to hear the re-



since 1995 is replacing Mike disposal programme likely to be Mike Metcalf: Will receive a pay-off of £350,000

sult of an appeal against one of those decisions.

Industry sources suggested Thorn was also considering approaching Granada, the leisure and media group, to discuss a marriage between its rental business and Radio Rentals. Such a merger would create severe competition concerns.

Christmas trading at Radio Rentals was disappointing due to a fall in customers renting personal computers, despite a reduction in prices.

This poor performance saw profits at Thorn fall by almost a third to £88.6m in the nine months to December, causing analysts to downgrade profit forecasts by at least £5m to

around £120m for the year to

Thorn admitted that trading in the UK was likely to remain tough but said that it had no current plans to close any more Radio Rentals branches after shutting down 90 sites last year.

March.

The dramatic shake-up of houses to make room for its latra, the Japanese investment est purchases.

Britain's pub industry gathered pace yesterday as Nomubank, kicked off a disposal

Scottish & Newcastle signalled its intention to expand rapidly its managed house estate by buying 311 pubs from Nomura, which recently became Britain's largest landlord, for £206m. The pub and brewing giant, will use the new sites to roll out brands such as Rat & Parrot, Chef & Brewer and John Barras community

Brian Stewart, chairman of S&N, said: "This was a unique opportunity for us. This will enable us to accelerate our successful expansion of our managed estate. It is difficult to find new sites and we believe we have paid a fair price for good locations."

S&N will now embark on its own widescale reorganisation of Investment Column, Page 20 | its pub estate. It is likely to

launch a disposal programme. selling hundreds of pubs from its tenanted estate and some of its worst performing managed

Nomura is looking to conprogramme which could see it tinue its sell-off as it attempts leases which S&N would have sell at least 1,000 of its tenant- to slim down its pub business to buy out to convert them to or trade sale. As part of this plan Nomura now plans to allow 300 dissident tenants the right to be freed from the "tie", a system that forces them

to a buy beer through the landlord. These tenants are part of a large group of disgruntled publicans who are taking legal action against Nomura to declare unlawful a former tie which they claim forced them to buy beer an unfair prices. By freeing these pubs from tie, Nomura hopes to clear the way for their sale.

The group still faces the prospect of several key court cases this year which could pave the way for millions of pounds worth of compensation claims.

last September as part of a estates.

£1.2bn deal to acquire the 4,300-strong Instrepreneur and Spring Inns chains.

Of the 311 pubs sold, 70 are already managed houses or on short leases. However, 240 of the sites have tenants with long

S&N is paying £662,000 a pub, compared to the an average of £275,000 a pub Nomura paid for Spring Inns and Inntrepreneur.

S&N estimates that the total cost, including refurbishment of the sites, will rise to £1m a pub.

However, analysts believe that S&N is not paying over the odds. "The price paid does not look cheap but S&N has been able to pick the best sites and in the long term should be able to make a lot of money out of them," said one analyst.

Britain's pub industry has been in turmoil in recent months with the rise of new and powerful independent operators as the big brewers contin-Nomura bought the pubs ue to sell off their tenanted

Merged bank revises **UBS** job osses

By Lea Paterson

Half of the 400-strong workforce in the London-based equities division of UBS, the Swiss bank that is merging with SBC, was facing the sack yesterday, few-

er than initially expected. The UBS staff - including numerous highly rated analysis - failed to secure jobs at Warburg Dillon Read, the new

investment vank. The two banks intend to roll out their new equities department under the Warburg Dillon Read banner on 2 March. Affected employees are being summoned by telephone and told whether they have secured jobs at the new bank. But by mid-afternoon only a handful of staff had received calls.

One analyst said: "I haven't been told yet - very few people have. I think it's going to be a three day thing."

At 4pm UBS staff, most of whom spent the day anxiously sit-ting by the phone, were informed that, if they had not yet received a call, they would not be spoken to until at least tomorrow. This development – described as "incredibly frustrating" by one source - led to an exodus from the equities floor as analysis packed up for the day.

High-profile casualties of the merger include John Aitken, the banking analyst, and Richard Hannah and Matthew O'Keefe, the transport team. All three were highly as Nomura starts mass sell-off rated by the City.

Mr Hannah has been an outspoken critic of the various fundraising attempts conducted by SBC Warburg on behalf of Eurotunnel.

David Robins, head of UBS in Europe, is another big name expected to fall by the wayside. Mr Robins is currently heading the integration of SBC and UBS, but has not been offered a permanent post at the bank. Sources merger has been completed.

Colin Buchan, global head of equities at the new bank, vesterday confirmed the banks initially considered cutting many more UBS jobs, but raised the number of offers as management became increasingly impressed with UBS employees.

Other sources attribute the change of heart to intense lobbying by Hector Sants of UBS, a well-respected City figure and joint European head of equities at the new bank.

News of the cuts came as an independent survey revealed the combined force of UBS and SBC. Institutional Investor magazine said SBC Warburg's equity research topped the league tables for the seventh year in a row. UBS came third. Outlook, page 21

Andersen link-up with City law firm would pose bold threat to legal profession

By Roger Trapp

Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, is believed to be on the verge of merging with the City law firm Wilde Sapte in a move that would represent the boldest threat to the legal profession to date.

Although many leading accountancy firms have set up internal legal practices with a view to countering the declining profitability of their core audit markets, this deal would be a big challenge.

Wilde Sapte is a long-established City firm with about 80 partners and more than 200 other fee earners spread between the UK and international locations including Brussels, Paris, Hong Kong and New York.

Andersen, which last year gained about £15m of revenues from Garretts and Dundas & Wilson, its UK legal operations, has long been keen to put such activities on a par with those that it has in other parts of the world, notably France.

According to today's issue of The Lawyer magazine, there has been mounting speculation in the City about such a merger, with one top firm already understood to be devising a strategy for countering the threat. It claims that Wilde Sapte has been in discussions with Andersen since the accountancy firm's talks with another City firm, Simmons & Simmons, broke down late last year.

The firm is said to have been in talks with several leading accountancy firms, although merger talks between four of the biggest firms -KPMG, Ernst & Young, Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand ~ have created uncertainty in the field. Steven Blakeley, Wilde Sapte's

managing partner, fuelled speculation about such a link-up last year, when he said that combining with a big accountancy firm could provide his organisation with the international name and resources it required. Neither firm would comment on the report last night.

between Andersen and the Andersen Worldwide organisation appeared to deepen. Andersen Consulting, which intensified the long-simmering row by shortly before Christmas calling for an arbitrator to intervene, late last week applied to a US court for an injunction preventing the accounting arm from continuing with actions that it claims will derail the arbitration process. The court in New York is due to reconvene in two weeks.

The report comes as the dispute

The two sides are divided over the payments the more profitable Andersen Consulting makes to the audit firm of which it was a part until 1989 and other issues concerning the structure of their relationship. But there is speculation that they will agree to an out-of-court settlement. Some observers are even sug-

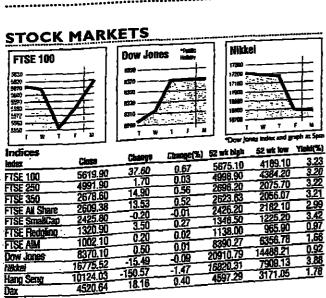
gesting that a formal split between the two Andersen units could lead to Andersen Consulting linking up with another consulting firm. However, Nick Land, UK senior

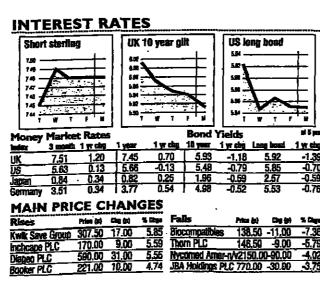
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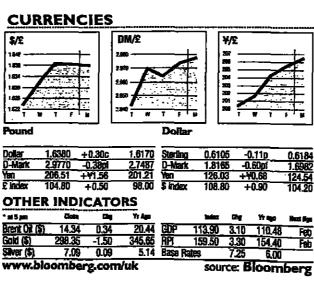
partner of Ernst & Young, which last week dramatically called off its planned merger with KPMG, said it was unlikely that his organisation would be a suitor.

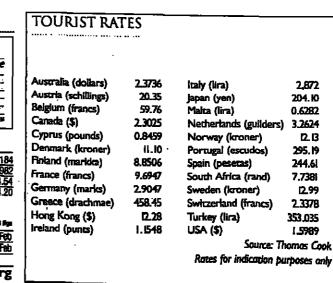
Meanwhile, Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, which sparked the current round of merger mania by announcing last September their plans to create a worldwide firm with about \$12bn (£7.3bn) in revenues, insisted that their deal was still on track.

Outlook, page 21









THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Wait for Thorn's strategic review

SO MUCH FOR the theory that demergers are supposed to create value for shareholders. Ever since Thorn and EMI did the splits 18 months ago all it has done is highlight the deficiencies of the sepa-

rate groups. Every time one of them gives a trading update it seems to spark a fresh share be a long hard grind for Thorn to get UK price fall and profit downgrades. Yesterday it was Thorn's turn and so it came as little surprise when it unveiled another disappointing performance. A warning that earnings for the year to March would come in at the bottom end of expectations was accompanied by the resignation of its chief

Appropriately enough given that the Winter Olympics are in full flow, Thorn's share price graph resembles a ski slope, with its shares falling from more than 400p on demerger to close down another 9p to 146.5p yesterday.

Thorn's future now hinges on the out-Rentals chain is still losing business at an a prospective p/e ratio of just 8. Hold.

alarming rate. Thorn is hardly to blame for the slump in sales caused by the rise in a rise in insurance premium tax. Building society windfalls also prompted customers to buy a TV or video rather that

But the fact is the business faces real long-term problems. The rental market is in decline, with industry sales predicted to fall by at least 5 per cent a year. And the group has been slower than Granada to start using direct sales techniques. It will sales moving in the right direction again. The best solution is to join forces with Granada, but that could pose insurmountable competition issues.

300

250

200

Rental revenue base, %

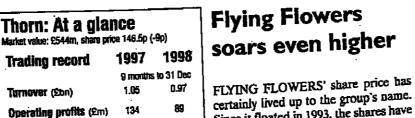
31 Dec 97 vs 31 Dec 96

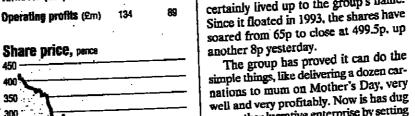
Total sales, % 31 Dec 97 vs 31 Dec 96

Thorn would also be well advised to sell its US business, where the group has been guilty of poor management and allowing competitors to steal market share.

Thorn's prospects hardly look promising. But with the share price so low already it is worth waiting to see if it can produce a rabbit out of the hat when it announces the results of its review in May.

SG Securities has downgraded profit forecasts from £125m to around £118m for come of its strategic review. The Radio the year to March, putting the shares on





up another lucrative enterprise by setting up a mail-order gardening business. This helped propel the Jersey-based company to produce a 59 per cent in-crease in pre-tax profits to £6.25m for the year to January 2, and saw its dividend

more than double to 7.35p. Gardening Direct, which sells bedding plants by phone and mail, saw sales increase by 150 per cent. Walter Goldsmith, chairman of Flying Flowers, said the increase would have been even higher if the

capacity had been there. It will be. Flying Flowers is developing a 16 acre site near Chelmsford. This will house amongst other things, 100 telephonists, needed to handle up to 20,000

calls a day. Flying Flowers is a remarkable story but how can it retain such strong growth in the longer term? The answer lies in

the group's ability to make sensible acquisitions and seek out new markets

Kong to have a go at the Japanese market. It has already formed a similar joint Since it floated in 1993, the shares have venture in the US which will sell cut newspaper adverts.

Flying Flowers is forecast to produce simple things, like delivering a dozen carratio of 19. Investors who have stayed away so far should consider turning to flower

Royalblue's success fails to impress City

ROYALBLUE found out about the fickyear's most successful flotations, the software group has gone from strength to strength since joining the stock market at 170p in June. Helped by the introduction market in providing the systems which banks use to handle the orders - and the introduction of the IT index, its shares hit a new high of 375p earlier this month.

The headline figures of Royalblue's maiden results - profits before tax and flotation costs rose 50 per cent on a 77 per cent Yesterday Flying Flowers teamed up jump in turnover-more than justified the with the largest flower grower in Hong market's confidence. Yet the shares gave heady climate, it seems that Royalblue's comment that the rate of growth would be "somewhat lower" in the coming year was enough to convince some shareholders it was time to lock in some profits.

This may seem strange. After all, Royalblue has plenty of good growth prospects in financial software, where it can expand its product range and sell upgrades that allow systems to cope with the introduction of the European single currency. And it does not rely completely on financial customers. Almost half its revenues come from customer service and call centre management products.

Then there is the US. Royalblue's office, set up last year, is already in profit and the market for its financial products leness of the City yesterday. One of last is buoyant. Plans for Nasdaq to move to

for software sales. But that does not make the shares attractive. Even after the dip, Royalblue of the Stock Exchange's new order book shares trade on a multiple of 47 times ex-- Royalblue has more or less cornered the pected 1998 earnings - still high for a company which is expected to grow at about 25-30 per cent over the next two years. Royalblue is an admirable company, but for now its shares are high enough.

The famous Ironbridge is both a legacy of the Industrial Revolution and a testament to Telford's unstoppable business success. £2,000 million of public

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UK and overseas abound in Telford

GUS takes aim at Argos's performance in bid battle

Great Universal Stores went on the offensive yesterday in its hostile £1.6bn takeover bid for Argos, claiming an independent Argos would come "nowhere near" its proposed offer price of 570p. In its formal offer document, GUS's chairman, Lord Wolfson pointed to Argos's lower like-for-like sales growth in the second half of last year despite a further expansion of the range and a lower gross margin. "In our view Argos's prospects on a stand-alone basis come nowhere near to supporting a share price today of 579p."

Argos hit back, saying the GUS offer was inadequate and that it was trying to buy Argos on the cheap. Argos shares closed 5p lower at 606p. Great Universal Stores edged 2.5p lower at 747.5p. The first closing date for the offer is 9 March.

Marston chief leaves

David Gordon, the long standing managing director of (,, Marston Thomson & Evershed, the troubled regional brewer, has lost out in a boardroom shake up and is leaving the group with a pay-off of around £130,000. Nick Letchet, the group's finance director, has been promoted to chief ex-

ecutive ahead of Mr Gordon. Analysts believe Mr Gordon has paid the price for the group's disappointing operating performance and failing to expanding the Pitcher & Piano chain as quickly as expected, which has lead to a sharp fall in Marston's share price. Mr Letchet is now likely to embark on a reorganisation of its

Healthcall buyout bid

ement of Healthcall yesterday blamed political uncertainty over healthcare policy as it mounted a £50m buyout bid to take the company private. Maurice Henchey, the chief executive, said Healthcall would be absorbed inside HCMS, a company owned by management and NatWest Equity Partners.

Mr Henchey said operating profits for 1997 at Healthcall, whose core business is providing a duty doctor service, would be around £4m compared to £5.4m for 1996 and £7.9m for 1995. HCMS is offering 90p in cash for each Healthcall share, a 29 per cent premium to the closing price of 70p for Healthcall on December 12 when the buyout plans were first mooted. but below the float price of 105p. The shares closed yester-

day at 87.5p, up 6p. **Energy battle hots up**

PacifiCorp, the US power firm bidding for Energy Group, turned up the heat on rival Texas Utilities yesterday, saying any bid from Texas would need a much higher price than its offer of 765p. Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity, recommended PacifiCorp's £4.06bn cash offer earlier this month, but Texas has continued to talk to Energy Group, keeping alive the possibility of a rival offer. PacifiCorp estimated Texas would need to offer more than 820p to match its own bid and compensate for regulatory uncertainties and any resulting time lag.

Offer for oil explorer

AIM-listed Sibir Energy yesterday launched a recommended share exchange offer for its fellow Russian oil exploration company Pentex Energy in a deal which values Pentex at about £75.6m. The offer is on the basis of 67 Sibir shares for every 100 Pentex and represents a 27.82 per cent premium over Sibir's mid-market price on January 15, the day before merger talks were announced.

Elliott takeover agreed

B Elliott, the specialist engineering group, has agreed to a takeover offer from a new firm, Capitalmarket, for £43.5m. Capitalmarket has offered 110p for each-Elliott share. The shares closed yesterday at 106.5p, up 5p. Capitalmarket was formed recently to make the offers with financing arranged by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell's private equity division.

Belgo to set up in US

Belgo Group has agreed a joint venture with Apple South Inc to set up a chain of Belgo restaurants in the US and to operate an Apple South restaurant brand in the UK. The deal, flagged by Belgo last month, will see the first Belgo restaurant open in New York within the next 18 months.

COMPANY		·	_ :	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Whermarie & Bond (I)	3.54m (2.67m)	0.926m (0.727m)	1.69p (1.29p)	0.25p
Cilveden (F)	11.61m (8 49m)	2.02m (1.71m)	5.04p (5.69p)	1 1p .
Eurotamoel (F)	530.9m (503.8m)	-0.611m(-G.716m) - (-)	· · · · · · ·
Rylog Flowers (F)	45.3m (35.3m)	*5.83m (3.92m)	20.0p (14.7p)	7.35p (3.549)
Hydro-Dynamic Preds (I	3.18m (3.08m)	0.477m (0.426m)	4.8p (4.0p)	1.20
IAF Group (1)	3.84m (4.82m)	1.14m (0.494m)	5.21p (2.18p)	2.5p (2.5p)
Royalden (F)	- (-)	2.04m (2.02m)	4.08p (5.83p)	2.25p (1.5p)
Workspace (N)	5 6m (4.5m)	4.13m (3.56m)	20.4p (17.9p)	
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	(N) - Nine Months	*Pretax figs are st	and so not inco	

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OUTLOOK ON THE SOMERFIELD-KWIK SAVE MERGER. JOB LOSSES AT UBS. AND THE FAILURE OF KPMG AND **ERNST & YOUNG'S** MARRIAGE PLANS

Two retail weaklings don't make a heavyweight

We've had Glaxo-SmithKline, SBC and come the Big Three. And there will be takes over and closes down a competitor. UBS, Guinness-Grand Met and now we have, er, wait for it - Somerfield and Kwik Save. In the wave of global mega-mergers sweeping industry and commerce this one hardly registers on the radar. As one analyst puts it delicately; "It is a pimple

on the backside of some of the others." This may be a little bit of an exaggeration, but it is also largely true. This is a merger akin to two lightweights getting together to form one bigger, but still dis-advantaged middle-weight. It may have a bit more muscle in the buying department but Tesco and Sainsbury's are still going to punch its lights out.

In a sector where might is right, Somersave or KwikField, or whatever it might be called, is still going to have only half the sales and market share of the top two. Moreover, it will also have the weakest brand and the poorest portfolio of stores. Its 1,400 outlets belie a long tail of no-hopers that will be haemorrhaging sales and probably losing money. Management won't be able to give them away.

Even so it is hard to see what else these two managements could do. Somerfield and Kwik Save have both been caught by the increasing dominance of the major supermarkets and the ruthless discounting of Continental groups like Aldi and Netto. This merger doesn't provide a solution in itself but it should strengthen their hand.

Certainly it will provide a cue for others to follow. UK supermarkets have been hot to trot for some time. One way or another the Big Four are determined to bemore mergers and deals in the second division with Iceland, Budgens and so on. Separately there is likely to be a similar shake-out in the discount sector.

For Jardine Matheson, which controls 29 per cent of Kwik Save through Dairy Farm, this has been another spectacularly poor investment over the years, though not quite in the same league as Trafalgar House. Dairy Farm's stake has been on the market for as long as anyone can remember. Let's hope Somerfield, the strongest of the two, hasn't fallen for a pup in finally providing Jardine's with an exit.

Whingeing UBS bankers

It is hard to feel much sympathy for the whingeing stars of UBS as the curtain falls on this glorious City gravy train. These are investment bankers, and it ill becomes those who hand it out with such abandon to complain so vigorously about a redundancy programme which is par for the course among many of the clients they so lucratively advise. The brutality of the capital markets is legendary. In a sense, UBS is just getting a dose of its own medicine.

Even so, it is also plain that the merger of SBC Warburg with UBS's investment banking activities has been badly mishandled and that a very substantial amount of value may have been surrendered in the process. When a business as is happening with SBC and UBS, the hope always is that the encumbrant can somehow or other retain the market share of the company subsumed. Unfortunately it often doesn't work that way: the acquired market share has a tendency to slip through the fingers like sand.

In the case of UBS it may be much worse than that. So angered are many of UBS's key people about the way this supposed merger of equals has been handled, that even those offered jobs in the new organisation are turning them down in droves and moving to the competition. Meanwhile all constructive activity at UBS has ground to a halt SBC may have succeeded in removing a competitor from the market, but it seems a mighty expensive way of doing it if all UBS's business has meanwhile shifted off to rivals.

FSA delivers the goods

Time magazine recently described Britain's Financial Services Authority as one of the big innovations for the next millennium in global capital markets. Dr Rolf Breuer, chairman of Deutsche Bank, said in a speech last week that he expected the FSA to provide a model for banking and securities regulation throughout Europe. Suddenly the FSA and its chairman. Howard Davies, are flavour of the month.

This is in marked contrast to the way news of the FSA was received in the City

when it was first announced. Then the perception was that the Government by combining nine different financial regulators in one organisation was creating a massive and powerful new bureaucracy which because it would attempt to combine wholesale with retail regulation would inevitably fail.

Any lingering doubts the City may have had on this score should have been allayed by yesterday's first FSA plan and budget. By going for rapid and early integration of the various channels of regulation, Mr Davies has been able to deliver an immediate cut in cost, which the City pays for under a complex structure of fees. Rapid change always carries a certain risk, especially in the delicate field of financial supervision where distracting influences can be highly dangerous. All the same, if the FSA can demonstrate real benefits for the City in the new approach from the word go, it should help create goodwill and a following wind. The challenge for Mr Davies is to make the jump from flavour of the month, to solid, durable, reliable regulation of the future.

Clash of cultures in the Big Six

KPMG and Ernst & Young are blaming the collapse of their planned \$18bn merger on a combination of regulatory issues and "client power". But is this really the whole story? The two firms have very different cultures and this must surely have

been equally to blame. KPMG is still essentially a loose federation of firms, while E&Y is considered to be significantly closer to becoming a single organisation.

Moreover, the structures of the two firms are sharply different. KPMG is a pyramid where senior executives such as the international chairman Colin Sharman are paid much more than other partners. E&Y is a more open and flatter structure where the spread of partners' earnings is narrower.

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand always believed the KPMG proposal to be a spoiler, designed primarily to undermine their own more carefully worked out deal. Nobody should assume that just because KPMG has failed, Price Waterhouse will too. It may be that the competition authorities in Europe and elsewhere will be less troubled by the Big Six becoming the Big Five than they would have been by the appearance of a Big Four. As important, Coopers and PW do not have same sort of potential audit dominance as KPMG and E&Y would have done in certain key sectors, such as financial services.

So PW may yet succeed where KPMG has failed. Whatever the outcome, these accountancy mergers have thrown up an amusing irony. The most vociferous critics have been the very company executives who are forever pointing to the need for mergers in their own industries so as to meet the challenge of globalisation. All of which goes to show that your view of competition depends crucially on whether you are in the position of supplier or customer.

Eurotunnel reveals first operating profit

By Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operator, yesterday revealed its first-ever annual operating profit, but hit out at the Eurostar train business for failing to attract more passengers on to the flagship services from London to Paris and

Eurotunnel unveiled profits of £57m, before taking into account the huge interest charges on its £8.5bn debt burden, compared with operating losses of £35m in 1996. Including interest payments, losses amounted to £611m, down from £685m.

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The marathon financial restructuring, signed last month by members of Eurotunnel's 174-strong banking syndicate, would have knocked £281m off the losses, bringing last year's deficit down to £330m. The refinancing involves banks swapping debt for Eurotunnel shares, which could give lenders up to 61 per cent of the company.

Shares in the Eurotunnel

which showed sales last year rising 14 per cent to £532m despite the impact of the November 1996 fire. The car shuttle operations had recovered in December to take 48 per cent of the Dover to Calais market, compared with 22 per cent for P&O, the nearest rival. Overall, Le Shuttle revennes dropped by 20 per cent to £113m last year, reflecting

the disruption. Eurotunnel admitted that traffic figures had failed to meet forecasts made as recently as last May. Some 2.4 million cars were carried in 1997, up 11 per cent on 1996 but short of the company's 2.5 million forecast.

Eurostar passenger numbers were around 10 per cent below forecasts at 6 million. Jim Evans, head of Eurotunnel's rail division, warned that on average Eurostar was only half full on the most popular London to Paris services last year and was just 35 per cent full on trips to Brussels, where competition with airlines was particularly fierce.

"Empty seats are a perishrose 2p to 65p on the results, able commodity. We would

prefer to see Eurostar going for higher volumes," said Mr Evans, in response to questions about the train operator's attempts to move the services upmarket

Though £212m revenues from Eurostar were 11 per cent higher than in 1996, the company admitted the figure was the minimum payment guaranteed from the train operator under a 10year agreement, lasting until

Lower-than-expected demand for Eurostar was one of the main reasons for the collapse of the plans to build the £5bn high speed Channel Tunnel rail link by the London & Continental Railways (LCR) consortium. In its original bid LCR had predicted Eurostar, which it operates, would carry 9 million passengers last year:

Patrick Ponsolle, Eurotunnel's executive chairman, insisted the high-speed link was "absolutely necessary", not just to the company but also to Kent commuters.

"Our view is that the full route is preferable to shorter versions," he said.



Le Shuttle revenues dropped by 20 per cent to £li3m last year Photograph: Brian Hams

Tunnel link would not let Railtrack off charges review

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Railtrack is unlikely to escape a tough review of its track access

charges at the hands of John Swift QC, the rail regulator, if it decides to build the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) Railtrack's directors said

last week the company would only get involved in the 68-mile high speed rail link if it obtained assurances that the review was not too operous.

But, in a letter dated 12 February, Michael Beswick, Mr Swift's director of regulation, wrote: "It is important that any involvement of Railtrack is without detriment to the interests of passengers and freight customers on the existing network.

"The regulator will seek to ensure that any arrangement is without detriment to Railtrack's commitments, reflected in its access charges."

A spokesman for Mr Swift's office also said that he remained "independent" although "mindful of Government decisions". Railtrack is considering plans

for a high-speed rail link for under £1.5bn - less than one-third of the proposed link's cost. The company receives more than £2bn from the access

charges and is keen to keep as large a chunk of this "guaranteed income" as possible. "We think there could be some way of linking the review and the CTRL. A bit like BAA

[the owner of London's air-

ports] did in its last price review,"

said one Railtrack director, "We

They are worried that money

NEWBURY

Building Society

think they managed to get off lightly because of the investment required to build Terminal 5." Rail campaigners view the regulator's letter as a victory. set aside for the renewal of the national rail network would be diverted for the CTRL.

"It would be unacceptable for Railtrack's already inadequate investment plans to be further reduced in order to cross-subsidise the link ... We are reassured the regulator shares our view," said Jonathan



John Swift: Railtrack wants assurances from him

Bray, of the campaign group Save Our Railways.

Some City analysts believe a deal could be done. One option is for the CTRL assets to be placed outside Railtrack's tough regulatory framework. One analyst said: "There could be a significant premium over the regulated return ... which would be attractive to Railtrack."

More than £400m was wined off the company's market value in December after Mr Swift announced he was looking for "radical and innovative changes" to the current charging regime.

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BT's computer division chases *US acquisitions

By Chris Godsmark

BRITISH TELECOM's computer services business. Syntegra, is holding takeover discussions with US groups in a move that would double its sales to more than £1bn.

Bill Halbert, Syntegra's managing director, aims to grow the company to four or five times its current size. It will also see Syntegra increasingly operating independently of its parent, though there are no plans to sell off the company. Syntegra has been picking

up the pieces after the collapse of BT's merger with MCI of the US. Some of the biggest cost savings from the deal involved merging Syntegra with System-House, MCI's systems integration business, which would have created a company with sales of

more than £1.2bn. Mr Halbert said Syntegra's sales in the current financial year were rising strongly, despite the disappointment over MCl, and would reach £400m, an increase of more than 20 per cent. The integration plans were so far advanced that the merger of the two computing divisions was almost completed when WorldCom gazumped BT's takeover offer.

Mr Halbert said the intention was now to grow a lot faster through US acquisitions throughout the year, though he

declined to name the targeted companies. Discussions have already begun with some candidates and given the high prices paid in the information technology industry, the strategy could see Syntegra spend over £500m this year.

"We need to get the sort of scale we'd have achieved through the merger with SystemHouse. We need to be several times our size, perhaps four or five times and that has to happen by acquisition. We want to see our turnover in the billions of dollars," continued Mr Halbert.

The systems integration industry is dominated by global giants such as IBM, EDS and Andersen Consulting. Syntegra is small by comparison, but aims to catapult itself into the top five in the world, an ambition backed by Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive and former head of the computing group ICL.

Under Mr Halbert, Syntegra is widening its focus from the installation of voice and data systems for companies to providing consultancy advice. Recent large contracts include an electricity trading system for British Gas and work on networks for the NHS linking doctors and dentists' surgeries.

Syntegra also expects to continue its organic growth throughout 1998, adding about 1,000 employees to its 3,500strong workforce.

Indonesia back to the brink in currency clash

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

INDONESIA is moving back to the brink in a renewed confrontation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the establishment of a currency board. Investors, already jittery about prospects for Indonesia, responded yesterday by wiping 28 per cent off the value of the local currency.

Although Indonesia is detaching itself from the fate of other financial markets in East Asia, fears of another rout in Jakarta sent all regional currencies spiralling downwards, including an unexpected devaluation of the Vietnamese dong. All stock markets also feli but, surprisingly, Jakarta bucked

the regional trend and managed a 2.1 per cent gain. President Suharto of In-

donesia has shown no sign of budging from his determination to establish a currency board for the Indonesia rupiah which would tie its value at a fixed rate to a stronger currency, almost certainly the US dollar. His officials argue that the country has the resources to make a board work. They state that there is \$19bn (£11.6bn) in reserves, enough to cover the 78 trillion rupiah in circulation. Under a currency board system there must be sufficient foreign currency holdings to back all

local currency in circulation. Indonesian companies owe international creditors \$74bn. Many are technically bankrupt and could only be saved by a to make their case personally lower exchange rate with the in Jakarta. dollar. Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director, has trated by the lack of positive inwritten to President Suharto, telling him that the \$43bn IMF rescue package would be in

the currency board. Yesterday Gordon Brown. Chancellor of the Exchequer, said European Union finance ministers agreed with the IMF that it would be premature to set up a currency board system for Indonesia's rupiah. Speaking at a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels, he said there were a number of preconditions which had to be met first.

question if he goes ahead with

Pressure against the board has also come from the US and Japan, which is sending officials

vestor response to IMF measures and increasingly worried by the rioting in protest against price rises. They feel

that a move to bring stability to

the rupiah will go a long way to

The Indonesians are frus-

restoring confidence in the economy. This view is not shared by anyone outside Indonesia. "No one believes this will work." said Howard Georges, vicechairman of the South China Brokerage in Hong Kong.

"A currency board will make Indonesia a sitting duck for another attack," said Lye Thiam Wooi, a fund manager at OUB

Asset Management in Singapore.

Jobs to go as FSA trims its budget

By Andrew Verity

The City's new super-regulator yesterday revealed it would implement a cut in its budget next year - despite having to keep pace with runaway salaries in the City.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) said the total budget for regulation would fall in the next financial year to £153.9m, a 3 per cent cut in real terms. Sixty jobs will go from the nine regulators that are being merged into the FSA, leaving 1,715 staff to carry out the

same tasks. The FSA is facing a struggle

to attract skilled staff from financial services companies while pay in the sector is rising by 9.6 per cent. Howard Davies, the FSA chairman, yesterday said more staff from the City would be welcome. But he admitted the regulator could not match some of the glittering bonuses

which are being paid this year. "On the whole, financial services institutions are not long on good quality staff. We are aiming to pay marketrelated salaries somewhere between the median and the top quartile. But we cannot match investment bank-type bonuses," Mr Davies said.

Five months after it began to fill top-level posts, the FSA is still looking for a director of investment business, a finance director, a director of supervision of exchanges and a consumer relations director.

The FSA said it would need up to 250 further staff by the year 2000, when its scope will be extended to police new areas such as the Lloyd's of London insurance market. The budget would rise when these areas came under its ambit. Mr Davies said.

Keith Oates, deputy chairman of Marks & Spencer, was yesterday appointed to be a

non-executive member of the FSA's board. He is one of two members of the 14-strong board with no regulatory background. The FSA plans to step up the

concept of the regulatory "onestop shop", to allow consumers and companies to get full advice from one point of contact. Supervision of banks is

expected to switch from the Bank of England to the FSA by 1 June, when the Bank of England Bill comes into force. The super-regulator will move its senior staff to temporary accommodation in Canary Wharf, east London, by the end of April. Outlook, this page

we will specify the calls from non-B1

Revised Interest Rates The new rates of interest effective from 16 February 1998 on Newbury investment accounts are set out below. **Current Accounts** 5.50 5.85 6.38 7.10 4 . 40 4 . 68 5 . 10 5 . 68 £10,000-£24,999 25,000-149,999 250,000 and OVER £500-£4,999 5.50 5.50 5.50 5.50 4 . 40 4 . 40 4 . 40 4 . 40 **25,000-E9999** £10000-224,999 \$25,000 and OVER £5200-£3300 5.21 5.34 4.17 (CAR) CART £10000-£19,999 5.70 (CAR) 5.85 6.20 CARO 4 . 66 4 . 96 220,000 and OvER (CAR) 5.07 (CAR) 6.38 TESSA 95 & IN **UpTESSA** £1-2468 2500-24,599 £5,000-259,988 5.50 5.50 4.40 \$25000andOVEF \$500and OVER 5.50 (CAR) 5.64 2.15 1.72

7.40 The above rates are variable #Without U.K. Income lax deducted. "Compound Annual Pale-assuming that monthly interest payments remain in the account." Free of U.K. Income lax, it is The net rate is flustrative assuming income lax at the current rate of 20%. Interest is paid at the net also also deduction of the appropriate page of income lax (which may be reclaimed by non-tappages) or guest, subject to the experied agricultural. Nowthat yellusting Society only accepts new investment applications from within its branch operations area. The Society has in place a policy on the minimum amount required for new account operangs.

Hopes of extra value propel BAe higher

MARKET REPORT



Hopes are running high that British Aerospace will mance is attracting overseas 307.5p. accompany record-breaking profits on Thursday with a their shareholdings to 29.28 package of value-enhancing per cent of the capital, un-

Last year the once-ailing per cent limit. group flew in with profits of are expectations it will hit per cent-plus to 20p a share and throw in a hefty share split, perhaps four-for-one.

Developments on the Arlington property side are also likely; so is the sell-off of BAe's 21 per cent sharetelephone group.

It was enough to propel BAe shares 62p higher to 1,775p, within hailing distance of their peak.

BAe has also been helped by the success and likely flotation of Airbus Industrie, where it has a 20 per cent interest. Airbus is on the verge of getting a \$4bn Latin American order.

investors. They have lifted comfortably close to the 29.5

If they stray above the share register will be forced £590m, lift the dividend 25 to sell, which could depress is thought to be near to liftg the ceiling.

19.5p after saying it was in bid
talks. Healthcall, a health ing the ceiling.

ket turned in a solid if support group, rose 6p to featureless display with 87.5p on a management buy-Footsie climbing 37.6 points out at 90p. holding in the Orange mobile to 5,619.9, just 9.8 from its peak. With New York closed, the market was left to plough its own furrow, which contributed to the rather dull

> roll. Somerfield and Kwik Save confirmed they were in "nil premium" merger discussions. Somerfield, where Asda has displayed a passing interest, fell 3.5p to 253p Evershed, the Burton-on-

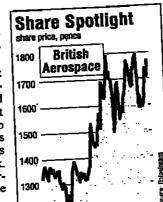
B Elliott, once a giant of the machine tool industry, added 5p to 106.5p after its 9p to 146.5p after chief exmanagement produced a ecutive Mike Metcalf left fol-£45m cash offer and among the tertiary oil shares Sibir, £456m. This time round there ceiling the last to arrive on the off 5.5p at 28p, mounted an agreed share exchange offer for its parent, Pentex, down the price. The Government 3p at 17.5p. Car. dealer Alexanders motored 5p to

> Bass, thought to have lost the tender battle for Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts to the US Marriott International group, rose 16p to 950p. The company has Still the bids continued to cancelled analyst meetings pencilled in for this week. Ladbroke, out of the Intercontinental running, rose

1.5p to 284.5p. Marston Thompson &

David Gordon departed. Thorn, the rental group, lost

lowing a profit warning. Chemical group Courtaulds hardened 6p to 269.5p despite sell advice from stockbroker Sutherlands. British Petroleum fell 8p to



MAMJJASONDJF

BAe's high flying perfor-and Kwik Save gained 17p to Trent brewer, firmed 3p to 787p with SG Securities sugand shares should be sold. For a time financials put

on another storming display as the story of a Barclays bid for National Westminster Bank went the rounds again. Nat West ended 34p (after company said it "has nothing 43p) higher at 1,174p and Barclays, figures today, closed up 45p (after touching 59p) at 1.931p. Abbey National rose 35p to 1,219p and Lloyds TSB 27p to 900p.

ML Laboratories fell 6p to 125.5p after Glaxo Wellcome dropped an option on one of its products; Shire Pharmacenticals rose 4p to 339.5p as stockbroker Panmure Gordon cut its current year's profits forecast but lifted its estimate for the following

This year's figure has been slashed £1.2m to £4m largely because of an acquisition. Next year's forecast is now £15m, up from £12.6m. Tadpole Technology had

Euro Sales Finance, which arrived on AIM at 111.5p in another tantalising session, hitting 62p at one time. The

new to report".

The shares have become

the darling of small investors.

Turnover has been heavy.

Volume was put at more than

15 million shares yesterday.

Irish oil group which already

has more than 1.6 billion

shares in issue, created a few

more - 90 million. They were

placed at 1.125p a share with

Capital International, a US

fund manager, which now

has 14.7 per cent. Bula held

at 1p, putting a £20m value on

In heavy trading Emerald

Energy went to a 9.5p peak,

up 1p. A statement is ex-

the company.

Little Bula Resources, the

June 1995, jumped 35p to 210p. Interim figures, due tomorrow, are likely to emerge at more than £400,000. In its last full year shares closed at 46.5p, up Euro Sales, which specialises 12.5p. They have soared from around 10p on stories of a in providing services for small companies, produced major contract and the arrival of stockbroker Colin Black-£563,000. bourn with 3.1 per cent. The

TAKING STOCK

Colin Forsyth, founder of the Pan Australian unit trusts, is chairman of The Sandwich Bank and Crust Co, which is on its way to Ofex. It is raising £950,000, selling shares at 30p. The group produces sandwiches, has a van sales fleet and is building a chain of sandwich

IAF, an investment linance group with interests spreading from a fleet of nine Boeings to property in Kiev, lifted interim profits 113 per cent to £1.1m and should achieve £3.6m for the year. The shares rose 5p to pected this week about its 117.5p, a year's high.

Colombian exploration.

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Japan needs a Thatcher revolution, not another minor fiscal boost



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HAMISH MCRAE **ON AN ECONOMY** IN A BIND

HARDLY a day goes by withreflate its economy, calls which are politely listened to - and then effectively ignored. Later this week Japan will go through the motions of making some further fiscal stimulus.

On Friday it is expected to announce an increase in the previously planned deficit for the 1998 fiscal year. But while the headline deficit will rise, in fact it will leave the overall fiscal stance pretty much as before, much to the ire of most other governments.

This clash over how Japan should dig itself out of what recession has become the most serious source of dissent withhave often in the past been tensions within the G7.

For example, during the 1980s European governments were critical of the US refusal to attack its twin deficits, the current account deficit and the fiscal one. The US, for its part, has long been critical of the Japanese refusal to attack its longstanding current account surplus.

But this disagreement over policy reveals a deep divide not just in policy prescription, but a conceptual divide over how the Japanese economy works. Both sides agree that Japan is in a bind; but they completely disagree on the appropriate tightness or otherwise of fiscal policy in this situation.

The bind is well-described in a new paper by the London investment advisers Smithers & Co, long-term Japanese specialists. It points out that the core of the problem is the combination of an ageing population and an excess of debt.

The former will restrict longterm growth while the latter will put a severe break on short-term growth. Japan needs to deregulate, but before deregulation can be successful, debt must be reduced. Cutting debt requires not only some write-offs of debts that can never be repaid, but in the longer-term, a shift to stock-market finance. But confidence in the stock market cannot be restored until it is clear that it has found a naturout some new call for Japan to the tacit support of the goval level and is not depending on ernment.

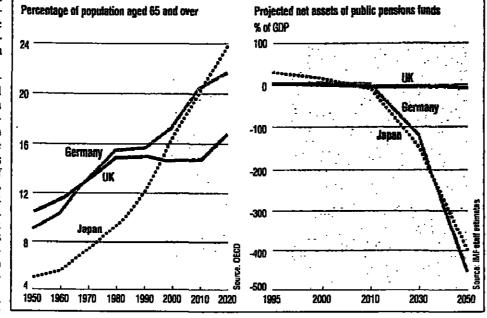
The scale of the ageing problem is shown in the left-hand graph, which charts the rise in the proportion of the population crisis in the prospective deficit large or small, will not suffer. way which is politically acceptover the age of 65. In contrast to the UK, which has a breathing space until about 2010, the proportion of over-65s rises relentlessly, year in, year out, for a generation. Germany, also shown, as much the same problem. In the view of Smithers,

This is catastrophic for a threatens this year to be another bank-financed economy. The Japanese economic miracle was financed by cheap bank loans. in the Group of Seven. There Savers were denied a proper return on their money but this did not matter too much because rapid growth ensured that living standards were rising rapidly.

Meanwhile, rapid growth also enabled banks to write off their inevitable crop of bad debts. Now the situation is reversed. An ageing population needs a decent return on savings to pay for its retirement, while slow growth means that banks which are caught by bad debts cannot clear these by increasing their lending to other

booming sectors. The problem is further com-Japan already has the highest running deficit of any G7 coun-





in its public pensions.

These are currently in surplus, but as shown in the right- it is even possible that Japan hand graph, will plunge into deficit in about 15 years' time. (Again, Germany has a similar problem, while the UK escapes, though largely because our publong-term growth in Japan is unlikely to exceed 1.5 per cent a prices rather than wages, will be relatively low - maybe unacceptably low.)

The position of the Japanese Ministry of Finance is that it really should be tightening fiscal policy as soon as possible, for the longer it leaves the inevitable adjustment the more difficult it will be.

It has also been pressing the banks to make an honest disclosure of their had debt position. A couple of weeks ago the banks did produce a new assessment of their bad debts. The MoF believes this disclosed the worst case outlook, though the markets remain sceptical. So what will happen? One

crunch comes next month. when there will be a tidying-up of bank accounts prior to the end of the financial year. The pounded by the fiscal position. authorities have given an absolute, categorical statement of support of the banks:

However, it is possible that there will be some bank rescues:

may end up nationalising some of its banks, or at least owning equity stakes in them. Smithers does not dwell on

this. Its view is more that there will be a deepening of the recession, an inadequate fiscal stimulus, and continued disappointment. It is particularly concerned

that the economy will be compressed by a tightening of bank credit, which is desirable in the longer term (because it will enable banks to generate more profit and accordingly clear bad debts) but damaging to the economy in the short.

My own view is that the Japanese authorities are right in their reluctance to widen the fiscal deficit still further because any such widening is unlikely to provide the stimulus it is supposed to do. So they cut taxes; the re-

sponse by Japanese consumers will be to save the additional money, not spend it. Instead, what is needed is a combination of banking reconstruction and other structural reforms.

Rebuilding the banks' baltry, and faces an even greater whatever happens, depositors, ance sheets has to be done in a

able to the Japanese electorate. which is understandably loath to see taxpayers' money used to bail out bad lending decisions. So the right policy will be for the state to require some form of equity participation in return of

any support. Once the banks' balance sheets are secure confidence will gradually be rebuilt. There is something close to a consensus now in Japan of what needs to be done as far as the banks are concerned.

That is a start. The next stage will be building a consensus on the vast array of other structural reforms - things such as land use regulations, planning controls, educational reforms and so on that Japan needs to make.

I think Western critics of Japan often miss the point when they focus on the fiscal position. The key problems are structural and attitudinal, rather than purely financial: how to change a whole mindset which was in the past very successful, but is no longer appropriate and is now dragging the country down.

What Japan needs is something much more like a Thatcher revolution, not yet another minor fiscal boost.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Mohamed Al Fayed, a leading London-based retailer, has paid the £36,000 legal costs of a firm of solicitors, Finers, after the lawyers sent the Sheriff of London's men to his house.

According to The Lawyer magazine, the Harrods boss had been trying to sue Emanoule Antiques of London over four pairs of candelabras which he had bought from the dealer and which he alleged were fakes.

Philip Rubens, the partner from Finers representing the antiques dealer, had already got Mr Fayed's six-year-old civil damages claim against the dealer struck out in the Court of Appeal last August.

The Appeal Court ruled that the proprietor of the dealership, Emanouel Naghi, had suffered prejudice because of the inordinate length of time

the case had been hanging over him. Under the terms of that judgment Mr Fayed had to pay Finers' costs as well as the costs of his own lawyer at DJ Freeman, Marina

When Finers' bill was not paid, Mr Rubens issued a writ of fieri facias in January and the Sheriff of London duly sent his officers to Mr Fayed's

home at 60 Park Lane, London. The Sheriff's men were refused entry. Two days later a £36,000 cheque arrived at Finers. Perhaps Tiny Rowland, Mr Fayed's old sparring partner, should give Finers a ring for a few tips.

Scotia, the unconventional drugs developer, has undergone another minor corporate reshuffle. Just two months after the departure of David Horrobin and Sherri Clarkson, the husband-andwife team who founded the biotech company 20 years ago, Scotia has appointed Gerry Lafferty as group services director. As such he will add the role of company secretary to that of his current post as head of medical manufacturing. The present company secretary, Kate Marr, "is leaving the company to spend more time with

her family", according to Scotia. The group's shares peaked at more than 700p in the beginning of 1997, and then tanked. They rose 2.5p yesterday to 362.5p.

Lord Blyth of Rowington, the Boots boss, is set to succeed Lord Alexander of Weedon at the helm

of NatWest, it would appear. But who is Lord Blyth? And where, for that matter, is Rowington? A Scot, educated at Spiers School and Glas-

gow University, Lord Blyth now lives in the West Midlands village of Rowington. He was knighted in 1985 and awarded a life peerage in 1995. His first big job was at Mobil Oil, where he was a director from 1963 to 1969. Since then he has been a director of Joseph Lucas, general manager of Lucas Aerospace, and head of Defence Sales at the Ministry of Defence. He has also been group managing director of Plessey, and served as chairman of the prime minister's advisory panel on the Citizen's Charter. He lists his interests as skiing, tennis, paintings and theatre

Which is all fine and dandy, but doesn't exactly over-endow Lord Blyth with experience at running a national high street bank. There again, Lord Alexander was a leading barrister ...

There's one way for a woman to beat the so-called "glass ceiling" in corporate Britain, and that is to get in before anyone has a chance to build one.

Glass ceiling, that is. Jodi Berg, 47, a solicitor and a mother of two. has just been appointed the first ever Indepen-

dent Complaints Reviewer for the Land Registry. The Registry, which plays an important role in all property transactions, was re-awarded its Charter mark in 1995 'in recognition of the excellence of its service to the public" (it says here) and has

just applied for a third Charter Mark this year. Mrs Berg, currently chairman of an NHS Trust in south-east London, says: "My top priority is to ensure that members of the public and their advisors have full confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the new independent review system for the Land Registry."



Here's Nick Land, senior partner at Ernst & Young, consoling himself over the collapse of the proposed merger with the rival Big Six firm KPMG.

Is this what happens to senior partners who preside over failed merger negotiations? Happily Mr Land is merely posing in one of the firm's fleet of staff minibuses, which have been repainted to publicise the exhibition of paintings by Pierre Bonnard, sponsored by Ernst & Young, that kicked off at the Tate gallery last week.

Mind you, if there are recriminations over the failed merger, at least Mr Land's got a trade to go to.

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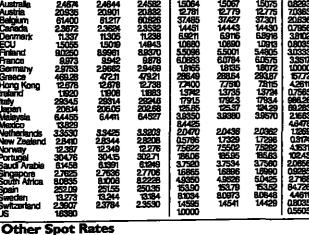
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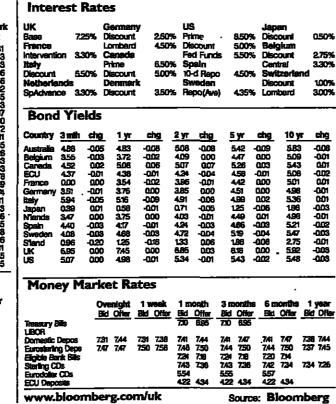
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Howley perfection to move Welsh up the pecking order



A scrum-half in the mould of the greats leads the principality against England on Saturday. Chris Hewett assesses Wales' No 1 dragon

For all that, Howley has

recent reverses. The Welsh per-

formance in Paris last season was,

in his view, the best at the Parc

des Princes since Graham Price's

annus mirabilis in 1975. Likewise,

the 40-point lesson meted out by

Justin Marshall's All Blacks in

November was not, he claims.

quite the shafting it appeared.

"I'm the first to accept that

the result against New Zealand

extreme, but when you look at

the game in its entirety, it's clear

that we were more closely

matched than the final scoreline

made out. I'm not saying we

would have won had the bounce

of the ball gone our way occa-

sionally - of course they were

the more complete side - but

37-21 to them wouldn't have

by nation. I've no doubt about

that. Indeed, it's vital that we

establish ourselves among the

élite and do it quickly, because

we're hosting a World Cup in 18

months' time. The hosts need

to be contenders, not also-rans.

"How do we go about it? We

Wales can be a top-six rug-

THEY used to call him Stan, as tration of a narrow defeat. row forwards finds much to venue on Saturday. laugh at in Rob Howley these Perfect, has a much more ished, complete. As in too damned good to be true.

The dewy-eyed romantics who throng the terraces of the This weekend, he will be the first principality from Stradey in the to take the field, thanks to was disappointing in the west to Rodney Parade in the Bowring's decision to saddle his east still wax lyrical about a hidden outside-half factory tucked away deep in the valleys, and the emergence of Arwel Thomas as poisoned chalice? Not accorda stand-off in the grand tradition suggests the stardust duction. But what about the scrum-half factory? Gareth Edwards, Chico Hopkins, Brynmoor Williams, Terry Holmes, lineage of noble breeding, a pedigree unmatched anywhere in the rugby world.

And now the successstarved boyos have Howley as Welsh selectors five long years to see where the lean and muswas coming from, but once the way I like it. We simply have they installed the cerebral Kevin Bowring as national coach, the pieces began to fall into place.

Howley made his debut against England at Twickenham two years ago, scoring a fine try that went at least some way towards easing the frus- defeats for ever and a day."

in Stan Laurel, but not even the No one will die of shock if he found a degree of solace in two meanest of international back- manages another at the same On that late winter's day in

days. The new nickname, Peter 1996, Howley was the last Welshman out of the changing appropriate ring to it: perfect as room door ("Embarrassingly in impeccable, precise, pol- enough, I lost a stud from my boot as I walked down the tunnel and my team-mates had to wait there until I'd fixed it"). playmaker-in-chief with the added responsibility of captaincy. An unwanted burden? A ing to the new skipper.

"The captaincy is not just machinery is back in full pro- about me, is it? Leadership has little to do with one bloke shouting the odds and everything to do with all 15 players taking been an unfair reflection. responsibility for their actions. Robert Jones? It is a sporting Rugby has moved too far and too quickly for one person to take all the decisions that matter during the course of 80 minutes. We're working towards playing decision-makers in every position and their No 1 Dragon. It took the the more of them I have around me, the easier the job becomes.

"We're very big on selfstart by beating Scotland and cular maestro from Bridgend analysis in this team and that's Ireland every time we play them, home and away. And we to be critical of ourselves, to look also start by moving that big English pack around the field, honestly at our contributions in every phase of every match. imposing our style of play on People say we're a developing them for a change and presenting our backs with the sort team, but the way I look at things, it's about time we stopped developing and started to deliver. You can't keep excusing your

of quality ball that allows them to give it a lash. We all know the English



Rob Howley: 'It's about time Wales stopped developing and started to deliver'

front, but I'm still of the opinion that whatever danger they bring to a match is to be found in their pack.

"Only eight months ago I was on a Lions tour with the Martin Johnsons, the Lawrence Dailaglios, the Richard Hills. These are big-occasion players who have shown the ability to dominate at the very highest level. They're awesome, to be honest. Stop them and you stop England. Their forward performance will have had their problems up be the key this weekend."

Class half-backs are rarer than radium at the moment. hence the clamour and chequebook-wielding kerfuffle over Thomas Castaignède's match-

winning performance for France against England in the first round of Five Nations matches 11 days ago. A similarly accomplished contribution from Howley on Saturday will add a fistful of noughts to his value. too, especially as a number of leading English clubs are already on his trail.

Howley has no urgent desire think about just at the moment, to leave Cardiff, however. thanks. It's England on Satur-

"I've got another two years to run at the Arms Park, I'm with the Welsh Rugby Union up to and including the World Cup and as I'm the sort of person who is happy to honour any contract with my thumb print on it. I'm giving all the speculation a wide berth." he said.

"If Cardiff either wanted or needed to sell me. I suppose I'd take an interest in what might Peter Perfect's perfect perforhappen. But I've got enough to mance.

on their mind By Chris Hewett JASON LEONARD looks a

French still

have Leonard

stone-cold certainty to win his 61st cap against Wales this weekend, despite the fact that the French are still on his disciplinary case. The Tricolores were adamant yesterday that footage of Leonard trampling on Thomas Lievremont, the Perpignan No 8, was in the mail. However, the alleged evidence was fast taking on the mythical proportions of Billy Bunter's postal order.

England were due to name their side this morning and Clive Woodward, the national coach, insisted he had yet to identify anything on the tape of the Five Nations opener in Paris 11 days ago to justify his taking action against Leonard. The French have accused the 29-year-old Hadequin of breaking Lievremont's ribs with a deliberate stamp, but Woodward commented yesterday: "I cannot see the problem.

"I would take action if necessary; I took steps when Mairtin Johnson was shown to have thrown a punch in the All Elects game before Christmas, But I am ; not in favour of citing for things. in the heat of battle."

If Woodward was concerned about the state of anyone's ribcage, it belonged to Lawrence Dallaglio. The England captain admitted yesterday that his popped rib cartilage was still causing discomfort and confirmed that he would not contemplate facing the Welsh unless declared 100 per cent fit.

But he added: "What makes me sore is the fact that I've been written off by critics, who seem to know more about my current state and chances of recovery than I do. My injury is improving daily and if that continues, I will take a full part in training towards the end of the week and then play against Wales *

Photograph: AP

Everyone in Wales knows,

actually, and they can barely

wait. For the first time in a

decade, the great sentimental-

ists of world rugby are basing

their predictions of victory over

the English on something more

substantial than nostalgic whim-

sy. Rob Howley is one of the

reasons why. The stage is set for

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 18 FEBRUARY

day, you know.

The Weish were fretting over Arwel Thomas, their outside half from Swansea. Thomas bruised his right knee at the weekend against Llanelli and said "It's touch and go. Everything depends on how long the manage ment are prepared to give me."



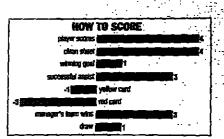
Today we publish the updated results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The ary. Due to a technical problem, the player scores do not include this weekend's results. ner will win a trip to the World Cup finals in France next Summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their league table includes all scores up to 7 Febru- team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal. i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 Updated scores will be published this Sunday. boms point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. If they draw and no points are given if they lose, Neither set of scores includes results from the Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead FA Cup. The manager who is the overall win-directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and lowing Sunday in the Independent on Sunday. starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a hellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count

The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the fol-



Independent Fantasy Football

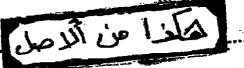
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Turf's war intensifies in Court 13

COURT 13 at the Royal Courts of Justice does not look as you all news pages of such recent lipictures coming out of racing's libel trial of the century are hand-drawn "artist's impressions", which could easily be a nine-year-old's scribble, it is hard to know what to expect Flat season has been firmly has been the scene of a spirit- from The Strand. ed libel action brought by the trainer, Lynda Ramsden, her husband, Jack, and Kieren Fallon, the champion jockey, against The Sporting Life, and of Top Cees in the Swaffham the case seems sure to contin-

ue for a few days yet. The plaintiffs claim that they were libelied in a leading article in the Life in May 1995, after the easy success of Top Cees, trained by Lynda Ramsden and ridden by Fallon, in the Chester Cup. They believe that the article accused them of "cheating". The Mirror Group, publishers of The Sporting Life, denies libel and maintains that the article was true in substance or fact, and fair comment on a matter of public interest. The proceedings have not

made the impact in the nation-

Leicester

2.50 Totally Yours 3.20 The Moor

2.20 Colonel Blazer (nb)

Right-hand, unclutating course, with stiff fences

Rourbon County. 897: MacGeorge 7 11 6 A Maguire 7-4 fav (R Lee) 8 ram

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Botham and Imran Khan, or Gillian Taylforth and the layby. but in the racing press, any talk of such trifling matters as the imminent Cheltenham Festirelegated by the latest reports

All three of the plaintiffs have already taken the stand, and refuted allegations con-Handicap at Newmarket three weeks before the Chester Cup. Top Cees finished fifth at Newmarket, but won the Chester Cup by eight lengths. Other witnesses have included Russ Gar-

of a key libel trial. Greg Wood reports

ritty, who rode Top Cees over surely the best free show in hurdles, and Jim McGrath, the town. Free, that is, for the pubpundit for Channel 4 Racing lic, but not for those involved, and a senior executive of the Timeform organisation.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Macgeorge (Leicester 3.50) NB: Global Legend (Sedgefield 4.30)

Yesterday the proceedings took something of a pull before the appearance, expected today, Sporting Life, but even so, the cut and thrust in Court 13 was cross-examined by Milmo, rep-

resenting the plaintiffs, on his compare the finish of the opinion of Top Cees' perfor- Swaffham Handicap to the clos-Amies had reported that in the Swaffham, Top Cees was "never placed to challenge," and he said that this was a phrase he used to indicate that a horse had not been trying.

Patrick Milmo, plus their teams, Milmo offered Amies other accumulate charges at what is examples of horses whose performances he had described in estimated to be a grand total of was Alan Amies, the senior franco Dettori, and another race-reader with Raceform, pubwhich was ridden by John Reid lishers of the official form book, and trained by Mark Johnston. "Sometimes stables have what for more than 30 years. It is his of Tom Clarke, the editor of The job to analyse the running of I'd call sympathetic runners," every horse in a race, and he was Amies said.

Milmo also invited him to

mance in both the Swaffham ing stages of the Cesarewitch Handicap and Chester Cup. later the same season, in which Top Cees finished third. Earlier witnesses had given evidence that a gap appeared between other runners in the Swaffham Handicap which Fallon seemed slow to exploit. In the Cesarewitch. Milmo said, it had taken Top Cees a similar amount of time to get going. Amics, howthe same way, including one ever, replied that "in the Ce-Giving evidence yesterday which had been ridden by Lan-sarewitch, the other horses were staying on. In the other race, they were going up and down on the spot."

It was a tussle which proceeded in tiny footsteps, a inch gained here but then given there, and battle will be rejoined again this morning, with evidence from Clarke. Derek Thompson, from Channel 4 Racing, is also rumoured to be taking the stand at some stage this week, while Alistair Down, the Life's deputy editor and the author of the disputed article, will also be called before the respective QCs exchange their closing addressin the next seven days. 4.20 SOMERBY JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,500 added 4YO 2m Penalty Value £3,155

Racing's futures market

By lan Davies

AFTER his victory in the Game Spirit Chase at Newbury on Saturday, Ask Tom is a top-priced 3-1 with Coral and William Hill for the Queen Mother Champion Chase. Kadastrof. who ran exceptionally well for a novice to be runner-up, is a top-priced 8-1 with William Hill and the Tote for the Arkle Trophy, a price which is unlikely to last long once punters have

digested the form-book implications of his performance. He is also 20-1 with Coral for the Queen Mother Champion Chase but will surely tackle the Arkle, for which he now holds a favourite's chance.

The Tote Gold Trophy winner Sharpical is 25-1 with William Hill for the Champion Hurdle, while the three-length Gold Trophy runner up, Kerawi, who was conceding 11lb, is 20-1 with William Hill and the Tote.

Arkle Trop	hy (No	vice) Cha	se (2m)			
Arkie irop		Willem Hill		Tota		
Horse (Fairer)	Corpl	7-1	6-1	π.2		
Charaptere (M Pipe)	61_	11-2	6-1	13-2		
Dandfiel (N Meade/h)	7-1		7-1	7-1		
Direct Route (J K Johnson)	6-1			8-1		
Kadastrof (R Dictori)	6-1	<u>B-1</u>	B1	8-1		
Wade Road (Mes H: Knight)	7-1	7.1		9-1		
Cyter Malta (M Pipe)	doubtful	81	8-1	10-1		
Edelweis Do Mossin (G Richards)	6- 1	10-1		9-1		
His Society (N Meade/M)	7-1	10-1	<u>8-1</u>	14-1		
Creck On (P Hobbs)	14-1	14-1	14-1	12-1		
Queen Of Spades (N Twiston-Daves)	12-1	18-1	14-1	18-1		
Mandy's Mantino (J Giford)	20-1	18-1		16·1		
Space Trucker (Mrs. J. Hammgion/iri)	20-1	20-1	#-1			
Lake Keriba (P Nichols)	20-1	25-1	=	20-1		
	25-1	33-1	<u></u>	<u>25-1</u>		
Astronali Boy (P Hobba) 25-1 Each-ney a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Challenham, Tuesding, 17 Merch)						

Champion		 e (2m 0	yds)			
	Comi	W (12)	Ladbrokse	Tota		
Horse (Trains)	7-2	7-2	11-4	3-1		
ladabrac (A P O'Bren/M)		TI-2	5-1	5-1		
Dato Star (J M Jefferson)	6-1	7-1	8-1	8-1		
Shadow Leader (C Egenton)	<u></u>		S-1	16-7		
Collier Bay (J Old)	14-1	20-1		20-1		
French Holly (F Murphy)	15-1	29-1	10-1*	20-1		
Karawi (N Tersion-Davies)	25-1	20-1	<u>16-1</u>			
Refitoel (D Nicholaon)	20-1	20-1		<u> 16-1</u>		
Samuertino (D Nicholson)	20-1	16-1	20-1	<u> 16-1</u>		
SERVICED ID REACHING	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1		
Commenche Court (T Weish/hl)	16-1	25-1	18-1	14-1		
Sharpical (N Handarson)	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1		
Graphic Equalisar (A L T Moore/H)	_==	33-1	14-1	16-1		
Oderson C Control 201 301						
Each-early a quester the oxides, places, 1, 2, 3 (Challenhern, Tuesday, 17 Mench)						
	*- with 8	12 6 7				

Queen Mothe	r Chan	ipion Chi	ase (∡m)	
Horse (Trainer)	Conti	William H	Ladibrokee	Total
Ask Tom(1 Tate)	3-1	3-1	2-1	5
Klairon Devis(A L.T. Moore, M)	41	7-2	9-2	
One Man (G Richards)	5-1	5-T	4-1	9-
	11-2	5-1	5-1	5-
Viking Flegsbip (D Nicholson)	7-1	B-1	8-1	7-1
Or Royal (M Pips) Cell Equineme (P Nicholis)	18-1	20-1	16-1	16-
Kedastrof (R Dicks)	20-1		12-1	-
	25-1	20-1	-25-1	25-
Celibrate (C Marri) Lord Dercet (J I A Charlion)	<u>25-1</u>	40-1	33-1	40-1
Arctic Kinsman (N Twiston-Davies)	40-1	50-1		40-1

Trium	ph Hurd	ile (2m li	f)	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	WESon His	Ladbrokes	Tota
Zatarabad (D Nicholson)	9-2	7-2	4-1	-8-2
Rainwatch (M Pipe)	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Darapour (A P O'Brien, iri)	10-7	14-1	12-1	16-1
iron County Xines (D Weld, Iri)	14-1	16-1	14-1	12-1
Rainbow Frontier (M Pipe)	. 14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
Snow Dragon (N Meeds, 19)	16-1	16-1	10-1	15-1
City Had (Mrs V Ward)	20-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Borazon (N Twiston-Daviss)	25-1	25-1		25-1
Buddy Mervel (O Sherwood)	16-1	25-1		20-1
Supply And Demand (G L Moore)	25-1	20-1	25-1	25-1
Real Estate (D Nicholson)	33-1	25-1		_
Each-way a quarter the odds	places, 1, 2	Chelenhem, T	iusday 19 Marchi	

Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase (3m 2f 110yds)							
Horse (Trainer)	Comi	William HD	Ladbrokes	Tota			
See More Business (P Nichols)	7-2	4-1	4-1	3-1			
Dorans Pride (M Hourigan/H)	-5-1	-5-1	4-1	-5-1			
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	9-1	8-1	8-1	6-1			
Starry Bary (C Brooks)	10-1	12-1	10-1	10-1			
Cyborgo (M Pipe)	12-1	14-1	70-1	12-1			
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	16-1	15-1	16-1	16-1			
Addington Boy (G Richards)	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1			
Rough Quest (T Casey)	16 -1	20-1	20-1	20-1			
Cool Daws (R Ainer)	33-1	33-1	_	33-1			

Arkle is Dickin's favoured Cheltenham target for Kadastrof

Kadastrof's performance in fin- Chase as a Cheltenham target. though my biggest nightmare Michael Foy, yesterday cleared ishing second to Ask Tom in the on Saturday has left his train-

Dickin has to choose between the Queen Mother

3.50 Macgeorge 4.20 Bakkar

GOING: Hurdles course - Good to Soft (Soft in places): Chase course - Good to Firm

1997: MacGeorge 7 to 6 A Meguire 7-4 far (R Lee) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
While this may be short of GAELIC BLUE's best distance, this is a strifer course then
given credit for and them may not be any hanging around, because Docs Dilemma should
be able to force the pace in this small field, something that was devided han at Towcester
lest time. Prior to that, Docs Dilemma had made a lot of the running and hung on form
Naughty Future and Sister Rosza here over an extra time furiongs. He can be expectad to do better than the Towcester race, in which Gaeste Blue finished a distant fourth
That was the third time in time outlings this season that Gaeste Blue finished a distant fourth
That was the third time in time outlings this season that Gaeste Blue had faded in the closing stages, though this time he ran a lot better than the bare result suggests in his first
outing since before Christmas. He may now be coming to his best and he had winning
form on this faster ground last year. Coloned Bluzer is out to put a moderate show at
Taureon behind him. That was over a more suitable trip than he had won at Windsor on
his classing debut and the only reason can have been that he found the ground too testing. If it seems he has a tough tests for a novice giving weight to handicappers, he is only
a pound higher than his last wirning mark over hundles and is still the one they all have
to beat. Regal Aura's best performance was his defeat of Suffolk Road at Plumpton lest
March. On first reckoning there may not be much between him and Suffolk Road's stablemate Nescari.

2.50 VICARAGE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,658

BETTING: 7-4 Totally Yours, 7-2 Highberts, 9-2 Fair And Fency, 6-1 Skahrani, 9-1 Teet Match, 20-1 Eurolink The Lad, Stievensamon, 25-1 others 1997: Apacha Park 4 10 5 D Gallagher 14-1 (M Sheppard) 19 ran

4.50 Distant Storm

confirmed for both races at er, Robin Dickin, in a quandary. the five-day stage and I will take it from there," Dickin said.

Champion Chase or the Arkle could handle firmer ground, al-

"My gut feeling is that he will for Cheltenham would be if the the Irishman for his Leicester Game Spirit Chase at Newbury go for the Arkle but he will be ground was dangerously hard." Adrian Maguire returns to race-riding today hoping his

who are watching two of the

most expensive QCs in the

business, Richard Hartley and

almost £50,000 a day.

recent run of had luck with in-"The joy was he proved he juries has finally come to an end. Hurricane Lamp at Kempton's es. A verdict is anticipated with-

return after examining the radius bone Maguire broke in his right hand following a fall from the David Nicholson-trained The jockey's consultant, Dr Christmas meeting.

In between winning at Plumpton in December and Huntingdon on Thursday, TOTALLY YOURS caught a tartar in Americanval at Wincariton. The Huntingdon win, achieved in commanding style, may have been her fifth of the season, yet for all that she is far from annucleig and Highteshett and Falle And Fancy are sleely to give her plenty to think about. Highbank put a couple of moderate runs in handcape behind him with a good third against Auburn Boy and Genme in a claimer at Huntingdon when he last mose in early December. He wouldn't need to step up much on that (and he's done a lot better in the past) to make a race of it. Fair And Fancy has just missed out under big weights in selers in two of his last three starts and in the other won going away over today's course and detance he gets 3th from the mare Totally Yours and has to be a threat. Shahrani is strugging this season and has finished behind statisemate Totally Yours and Highbark. Bonny and Eurollink The Lad, an all-weather Four will last April, could be better atternatives, but the may not be a sufficient test of stamma for Yest Master.

Selection: TOTALLY YOURS

● Pight-hand, undutating course, with stiff fences. ● Receourse is 2 miles south-east of city off A6. Lecester railway station (London, SI Pancras – Sheffield line) over 2 miles away. ADMISSION: Club \$13; Tattersalls \$10 (OAPs \$55) Prince par parts \$25 arimst car part for the	this season and has finished behind stablemate Totally Yours and Highbank. Benny and EuroBink The Lad, an all-weather For win last April, could be better alternatives, but the may not be a sufficient test of stamina for Yest Match. Selection: TOTALLY YOURS	10 MISTY RAIN (Pit) (Lest Cherce Razing) J Spening 107
● LEADING TRAINERS (5-YEAR RECORD): M Pipe 19 winners from 73 runers (25%). D Nicholson 13-53 (24.5%). N Twiston-Davies 10-37 (27%). N Marketon-Davies 10-37 (27%).	3.20 THURNBY MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,236	- 12 declared - SETTING: 10-11 Bakhar, 9-2 Fetaliste, 7-1 Supremism, Blowing Avery, 20-1 Forestry, Calibbling, Secret Beauty, 25-1 others
● LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 14 witners from 49 ndes (286%), M A Fitzgerald 11-52 (212%), W Marston 11-72 (153%), C Llewellyn 7-40 (175%). ● FAVOURITES: 93 wins from 289 races (346%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Silevenemon (250).	1 P/P-50 ACCRBUS DULCES (F18) (Secrops N Hooles) M Cropman 7 n 5	FORM GUIDE BAKKAR, besten half a length by last year's Champion Hurdle numer-up Theatreworld in a Flat race in Ireland last season and successful in his other two, best previous win-
2.20 WREN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,379	6 PR-865 DRAGONS BAY (24) (BF) (P C W Owen) Mrs M Reveley 9 ti 5	ner Tom Tailor in grand style at Warwick last month on his hurding debut. As a result, Baldkar was a warm profer to follow up in Doncaster's Brewers Hurdie only to find fellow Irish import Buddy Marvel back to his best. That must have caused connections to re- think plans, but at least there should be something in the way of compensation in this easier race. French hurdies winner Patalists made a successful start in this country at
1 1-444 COLONEI, BLAZER (26) (BF) (T W Biddlecombe) Miss H Kright 6 11 10	10 C-PP MY FRIEND SBLIY (76) (N Y Winter) T Bill 6 11 5 Gary Lyons 1 00-P4D ORIENTAL BOY (47) (Criental Boy Partnership) R Lee 6 11 5 W Missiston 12 84 THE MOOR (21) (Miss D J Merson) M Tempisans 7 11 5 R Themston 13 00P-0P TODD (USA) (88) (A H Harvey) A H Harvey 7 11 5 M Flichwide	Strathord and has a lot of use made of him in two outlings since. He's possibly better than those runs make out, but a double penalty isn't going to help. Suppremisin shaped fairly well behind the useful Virtuoso at Warwick on his hurdling debut and stapped up on that with his second to Foreign Rule at Folkestone, a race in which the leaders went off
6 21-UPP BOURSON COUNTY (81) (Lith Pointon and Sons) Miss S Willow 8 10 0	14 VISTEC EXPRESS (F1747) (Shantock Horsebores Ltd) D Thom 8 n 5 R Massey (3) 5 29-006 FLOOSY (75) (Mrs J P Bissil) T George 7 n 0	too tast. With the stone he gets from Fatalists, Supramism is the one most sually to crease in home Backer. Blowing away was tancled to upset Count Tony at Catterick It days ego and went well until put firmly in his place in the straight by the favourite. It was a good
BETTING: 5-2 Colonel Blazer, 7-2 Gaetic Blue, Hescal, 4-1 Docs Dilessons, 6-1 Regal Aura, 20-1 Bourbon County.	BETTING: 7-4 The Moor, 4-1 Frank Knows, 5-1 Dragons Bay, 8-1 Insustamit, 10-1 Inch Champion, 16-1 Alcovs, 20-1 Copper Cable, Descri Calco, Orlental Boy, 25-1 others	Selection: BAKKAR

BETTING: 7-4 The Moor, 4-1 Frank Knows, 5-1 Dragons Bay, 8-1 Insustant 16-1 Alcove, 26-1 Copper Cable, Decert Cable, Oriental Boy, 25-1 others 1897: Just Bruce 8 11 5 K Gaute 7-1 (Mrs E Heath) 11 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Considering his tack of experience, THE MOOR shaped with plenty of promise when fourth behind subsequent winner Ask The Butter over an extended two and a half miles here three weeks ago. He made his only mistake at the fourth lest yet still led at the next and wasn't beaten far after being headed two out. Not only should he improve for the run, to-day's opposition is several rungs below last time and the Storog Gale geiding, being out of a winning chase, couldn't be better bred for the job. Mary Reveley runs maiden point or pointer issuestantit and the lightly-raced nine-year-old Dragons Bey, who was inched out of a Catterick nowces' handicap chase last month after peciting at the final lence. That wasn't a great race and he was soundly beaten when favourite on a return trip, but he should still be good enough for a much bolder show in this company. Frank Knowa' belated reappearance, staying on without threatening Sovereigns Parade (gave 22tb) at Ludlow last month, entitles him to consideration in a poor race. That's better form than most of the others can muster, inch Chempion led or disputed the lead until tuning in when third behind Hum Tri Haw over a longer trip here on New Year's Day. He may have found the ground even more demanding at Fortwell lest time and len't out of it over this shorter trip.

•	
3.50	TRIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £5,390
1 32-1円	YECHIAN WARRIOR (10) (Mrs Heigher Alwert) R Flows 11 11 10

20-1 Bright November. 1997: Sherifimur 8 12 0 J.F. Titley 16-1 (Mrs. Lucy Wadham) B ran

4.50 CADBY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,898

1997 Sheriffmur 6 t2 0 J F Titley 16-1 (Afts Lucy Washren) B ran
FORM GUIDE
DISTANT STORM has come a long way since being pulled up in a seller on soft ground
at Worcester back in October won by Capitain Marmalade from Grand Applause (stone
better in). It all started when Distant Storm won an Exister seller next time of it is rating of
67 and he went on to complete a hat-trick when rated 76. He has been placed in all six
outings since, the last three in all-weather Flat races, and his second to Cutteridge at
Hereford in December (form which has worked out well) gives him every chance of confirming the form with third-placed Berykllum. The only stumbing block there is that, while
Distant Storm has been fairly busy since Berykllum. The body stumbing block there is that, while Distant Storm has been fairly busy since. Beryllum has had a nice break. He telled to pull out extra at Hersford after hitting the firrd last, and even though he reopposes on sightly worse terms, he is the fresher horse. Past winner Darrey shaped really well when third behind Upgrade and Real Estate at Kempton first time out and took on smart (tive-niles again there next time. Bringing him out at Windsor five days later was probably a mistake and he was a disappointing fewourite, but if he can put that behind him a very good case can be made out for him with his nider taking a handy 7tb off. Stightly Spe-cial continued to run well after winning at Uttowater in June and has had a break since mid-November. If he comes back in the form of he half-length second to an in-form No-ble Tom at Fakenham in October he wouldn't be far away off the sams mark. Selection: DISTANT STORM

 Erintante, one of the best hurdlers ever seen at Plumpton, advertised her Cheltenham chances with an impressive 17-length victory at the Sussex track yesterday. The Francois Doumen-trained mare has two entries at next month's Festival but is expected to run in the longer Royal Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle rather than the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle. Erintante was ridden by the trainer's son Thierry.

Sedgefield

\T.13

en de la colonia -مستند د بدران د ایج

<7.7

> 2.00 A Day On The Dub 2.30 Rusk 3.00 Flying North 3.30 Apache Raider 4.00 SINGING SAND (nap) 4.30 Rye Crossing 5.00 Little Twig

(Riap) 4.30 Mye Crossing 5.00 Little I wing
GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

● Left-hand, undulating course. Easy lences and long run-in.

● Course is in SE of town near junction of ASSB and AT7. Stockton station (9m) or Durham station (12m). ADMISSION: Paddock (8) (OAPs £4); Course 52. CAR PARIK: 52, rest free.

● LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs in Reveloy 67-233 (26%), J H Johnson 20-63 (12.3%), G M Moors 19-114 (16.7%). J Wade 5-165 (31%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: L Wyer 22-107 (26%), A Dobbin 15-143 (10.5%), J Supple 14-74 (19.5%), G Lee 13-58 (22.4%).

● FAVOURTIES: 227-587 (88.7%).

■ FAVOURTIES: 27-587 (88.7%).

2.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) \$2,900 added 2m 1f 4-100 MOST WANTED (82) (D) W McKeown 5 10 0

03336 NORTHERN MAESTRO (11) Mrs M Rouby 4 10 0... G Lee 030-50 LORD PAT (47) Mrs K Miligan 7 10 0 ... R McGraith (2) 555 CYMAX (52) J H Johnson 4 To 0... A S Smith - 16 declared -

	20	AYCLIFFE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
4	.3U j	AYCLIFFE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 5f 110yds
;		BALLYDAVID (336) J H Johnson 6 1 7 Milcheel Brannan (3)
2	00-PP	CAHEFLOW (67) J Macde 7 11 7T Elsy V
3	5/000-	JOE LUKE (425) G M Moore 8 11 7 Callaghan
4	132-00	LANDLER (67) J Norton 5 11 7E Calleghan
5	PP PP	MARCUS ROYALE (50) D Lamb 11 11 7
6	PS0	
ž	45-234	
à	56	ROYAL SHREWSBURY (31) Mrs M Jones B 11 7P Carberry
9	02	RUSK (14) T Easterby 5 11 7.
10	3-2000	TOTEM POLE (18) Mrs M Paveley 5 11 7
ħ		AUCHENDININY JAY (14) P Monish 6 11 2 J Jardina (7)
2	0-000P	CEELAYELL (45) N Chamberish 5 11 2
13	00 -	
14	UP-	
15		OUR CAROL (24) J Paries 6 11 2
18	3-0	PHAR CLOSER (S) W Kemp 5 11 2C McCormack (5)
		- 16 declared -

BETTING: 2-1 Rosk, 5-2 Poler King, 5-1 Totash Fole, 6-1 Ro Shreesbury, 10-1 Phys Closes, 12-1 Landler, Over The Master, 20-1 of

OHE!		
3	.00	TRIMDON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1f
1	5-3P34	EXECUTIVE DESIGN (17) (D) Mis M Reveloy 6 12 0 G Lan
2	142115	BURES (60) (CD) Mrs J Brown 7 11 2 E Callaghan
3	132-0	BREAK THE RULES (10) (D) D Nichols 6 to 0_F Leeby (3)
4	-FL555	DURANO (53) T Easterby 7 10 13L Wyer
5	12144	FLYING MORTH (17) (BF) Mis M Reveloy 5 10 8P Miven
6	21B4F	FATEHALKHAIR (53) (CD) (SF) 8 Sison 6 10 6
-		C McComack (5)
7	194FF5	EDEN DANCER (14) (CD) J H Johnson 6 TD 8 A S Smith
ā	120-00	GLENUGIE (89) (CD) G M Moore 7 to 8
ġ	T4-15	CHADWICK'S GINGER (87) (D) W Thring 10 108
_		B Gratter (5)
10	-3B4U0	ADVANCE EAST (8) M Dods 6 10 0 A Dobbin B
τī	315/2-	BRACKENTHWAITE (F29) A J Lockwood 8 10 0
		- Laure Prince - Laure
		- 11 declared -

BETTING: 4-1 Northern Massiro, 9-2 A Day On The Dub, 6-1 Stones-loy, 8-1 Thunderpoint, 18-1 Most Wented, 12-1 Victor Laszlo, Lymax, 14-1 others

BE	ITING: 5	2 Flying North, 5-1 Executive Dasign, 6-1 Fetsbalkha
Bre	ank The H	ules, 6-1 Bures, 10-1 Eden Dancer, 12-1 others
F	- 00	TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFI
2	5.3U	TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFI (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 3f4
1	P-F061	COPPERHURST (25) W Kemp 7 to 12R McGrati
2		ALWAYS A PAUPER (12) S Pitendigh 9 to to P Cart
3		APACHE RAIDER (11) F Marphy 6 to 10 E Called
		BABY JAKE (14) J H Johnson 8 10 10 A Do
4 5	LIBASTS	CASTLE RED (11) J Waste 7 10 10 K John
6	# PPP	FOREVER SHY (14) Mrs K Lamb 10 10 10 Miss S Lam
7		GALE PORCE (14) P Beaumont 7 to to B Gratter
B		GALEN (24) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 7 10 10
ĕ		MOONLIGHT VENTURE (49) M Tochunter 6 to to
•	GOVE U	C ticCornect
10	303MP	OVER THE CORRIE (52) J Curtis 8 10 10 A Thor
π		SELLARS STALKER (14) (C) (BF) Mis A Switbank 10 10
	1 04-10	בי בי בי בי בי היים היים היים ליים ליים ליים היים היי
2	32.800	SELLY PET (10) C Pagson 8 10 10 N Ber
ā	- GG	THE WASP (70) J H Johnson 6 to 10Mr C Bonns
ŭ		GAME POINT (25) D Lamb 9 105
5	9909	PEARL'S CHOICE (10) J McCorrochia 10 105
9	-325	- 15 deciared -
067	TMC- 7.2	2 Apacha Raider, 4-1 Galan, 9-2 Silians Stalins, 7-1 The 1
	Converte	urst, Pearl's Choice, 12-1 Beby Jake, 15-1 others
•	copposit	Mari Latel & Astrono, 15-1 perti numbi 10-1 peres

4.00 JACK BRITTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 110yds

13/31- COUNTERBALANCE (329) (D) J McConnochia 11 12 0 - 10 declared - A McGrath (3)
- 10 declared - Library weight: 10st. True handing weight: Kitchumny (at 6th, Grey Dencer 6st 7th, Shukan 8st 7th,

BETTING: 5-2 Silver Minz, 4-1 Singing Sand, 9-2 Sold Boss, 6-1 Kildrummy Castle, 8-1 Val De Rama, 12-1 Counterbalance, Nijway, Blazing Dawn, 25-1 4.30 ST EDMUNDS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5f

5.00 SEDGEFIELD MAIDEN NH FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 1f

TO ASHLEY COTTAGE (85) J A Moore 6 11 8 ... Mir S Swiers
CO BROWNORD MOUSE (33) G M Moore 5 11 8 ... M Harnolly (7)
CARTOFT DANCES T Essistey 5 11 8 ... Le Callaginus
CARTOFT DANCES T Essistey 5 11 8 ... Le Callaginus
CARTOFT DANCES T Essistey 5 11 8 ... Le Callaginus
CARTOFT DANCES T Essistey 5 11 8 ... Le Callaginus
S CARTOFT DANCES T Essistey 5 11 8 ... Le Powers (5)
S CARTOFT DANCES (4) C Grant 5 11 8 ... Le Powers (5)
LINCORES ABBEY J DOCIS 6 TI 8 ... Le Copter (7)
THAT MAN (14) J Wade 5 TI 8 ... Le Copter (7)
LITTLE TWIS T Tas 5 TI 3 ... Le Copter (7)
WINNING BID (14) P Beaumont 5 TI 3 ... B Greitan (5)
BARKORGATHEMOON J Marche 4 TO 12 ... F Leatry (3)
PETERSEN HOUSE G M Moore 4 TO 12 ... F Leatry (3)
PETERSEN HOUSE G M Moore 4 TO 12 ... F Leatry (3)
PETERSEN HOUSE G M Moore 4 TO 12 ... T Houge (7)
MARITHA'S MOONSTONE (31) T Essierby 4 TO 7 ... G Les
- 14 declared BETTING: 8-4 Cooless, 6-1 Syrican Express, Houseley Flier, 7-1 Cartoft Dancer, 9-1 Little Twig, 10-1 Martha's Moonstone, 14-1 Petersen House, 20-1 others

Racing results HEREFORD

2.00: 1. FUNNY GENIE (R Belerry) 38-1; 2. Dovetto 8-1; 3. Marigilano 7-1; 4. Oubridge Lady 12-1 16 rant. 9-4 fav Sudio Thirty (50). 4, 21-6, (Mrs. L Taylor, Chipping Warden). Tota: \$410, 5550, 5250, 5150, 5260. DF: 224100. CSF: 229877. Tricast: \$194338.

Tric: 228040 (part won, pool of 238382 to Sedgefield 200 today). 2.30: 1. GRATOMI (\$ Foo! 11-4 tex; 2. Winnow 10-1; 3. Begailino 13-2; 4. Fitnil-gan Pree 11-1 16 ran. 3. 6. (P Ritchens, Tid-worth, Hampelste). Tote: \$450; £250, £120, £230, £460. DF: £2220. CSF: £3214. Trio-set: £17365. Tric: £230.

22:30, S460, DF: 22:20, CSF: 632:14. Trio-ast: E173135. Trice: 27:23:0. 3.00: 1. MADAM MUCK (C Llewellyn) 8-13 fav; 2. Be in Space 10-1; 3. Tava Gale 6-1. 14 rar. 9, 2, N. Twiston-Davies, Chel-tenham). Totas: 61:70; 17:90, 22:80, 21:60, DF: 63:30, CSF: 58:85. Trice: 61:80, NF: Runal Run, 3.30: 1. MRISIC PLEASE (R. Johnson) 3-1 fav; 2. Dr. Rocket 4-1; 3. O. My Love 25-1; 4. Fichu 14-1 17 rar. 3, 3, (Mes VWilliams, Hanaford). Totas: 61:740, 51:40, 64:90, 64:50. DF: £14:10. CSF: £1740. Tricast: £277392. Trio: 55:32:10.

DF: ENGL CSF: 21/AU FRESC 22/152 INC.
5532/0.
4.00: 1. LITTLE SERENA (D. J. Burchel)
10-1; 2. King of The Blues 9-4 fav; 3. Tommys Webb 20-1 15 ran. ½, 19. (J. Harriman, Tredegar). Total: 21.50; 23.0, 2190, 2880, DF: 21880, 255: 23194. Tho: \$22780, NR:

DF: E880. CSF: E3194 Tho: £23780 NR: Alagro Prince.
4.30: 1. BUZZ O'THE CROWD (Mr D Alast-Harrier) 5-1; 2. Cabin Hili 12-1; 3. Scanlet Barry 5-1. 15 ram. evens few Miss Milbrook (pulled up). 4. 11. (Miss A Handel, Invinster). Tote: £570; £120. £1050, £320. DF: £1780. CSF: £9882. Tho: £3260 (part won, pool of £3182 to \$egofeid 200 today).
5.00: 1. A S. JiM (H Oliver) 9-4; 2. Winter Rose 14-1; 3. Supermick 11-8 fax 9 ran. 3, 4. (O O'Nell, Challerham). Tota: £300; £140, £350, £100. DF: £1880. CSF: £3258. Tricaet: £558. Tho: £1000.

Jackpot: not won (poci of £4,088.72 to Sedgafeki today). Placepot: £45900. Quadpot: £22.40. Place 6: £215.38. Place 6: £35.35.

PLUMPTON

PLUMPTON

1.50: 1. GLOWING PATH (Sophie Mitchel)

14-1; 2. Shorm Tiger 4-6 fav; 3. Derfishay 917 ran. 1½, ½, GHOdges, Somerion) Tote:

1560; 2340, E140, DF: £770, CSF: £2282
2-20: 1. CRICLE OF MARIOC (AP MicCoy)

1-0 fav; 2. Alpine Music 7-1; 3. Not Forgotten 7-1, 10 ran. sht-hd, 1½, (M Pipe, Wellington) Tote: £200; £10, £200, £10, £200, £10, £503. CSF: £833 (10: \$2470, NF LifneyAnd
2-50: 1. ESPERANZA N (R Thomson) 11-8; 2. Amazon Liby 11-0 fav; 3. Pescenseiter
12-1. 6 ran. 2. det. (M Roberts, Hallsham), Tote: £2-30; £190, £10, DF: £130, CSF: £320, 3-20: 1. DONTLEAVETHENEST (N Willermon) 6-4 fax; 2. Head For Heaven 16
1; 3. Thursdey Night 5-2. 7 ran. 22, 7; (R Curils, £500m), Tote: £220; £150, £360, DF: £2030, CSF: £2238
3.50: 1. ERINTANTE (Mr T Doumen) 1-

3.50: 1. ERINTANTE (Mr T Doumen) 1-5 fav; 2. Wontcostalotbut 33-1; 3. Strong Choice 25-1. 14 ran. 17, 10. (F Doumen, France), Tota: £130; £130, £330, £430, DF: £890, CSF: £1903, Trio: £2200, NRs: Built

4.20: 1. THE MAJOR GENERAL (Mr J 4.20: 1. The MAJOH GENERAL (Mr.) 7:22ml) 5-6 tay 2. High Pactes 3-1; 3. Thi-fest Lad 4-1 6 ran. 18, 4. (R Barber, Bearrin-ster). Tota: E160; 5:10, 5:260 DF: 5:290 CSF: 5:365. NF. Hightsakifred. 4.50: 1. MARYJO (M Batchelor) 20-1; 2. Country Tanguin 7-1; 3. Night in A Million 14-1, 11 ran. 7-2 fav Selaman (4th). hd, 6. (G L Moore, Brighton). Tota: \$23.80; \$25.0, \$210, \$2.00. DF: \$103.90, \$15.51. \$18.49. Tri-cast: \$18.8730. Trio: \$154.90.

Placepot: £420, Quadpot: £390, Place 6: £313. Place 5: £2.23 SOUTHWELL 1.40: 1. CATS BOTTOM (J Quim) 5.2 fav. 2. Inclination 5.1; 3. Palacegate Jo 11-1 9 ran. 5. 2½. (A Newcombe). Tota: £2.80; £10, £2.40, £700. DF: £4.0. CSF: £5.8. Tri-cast: £112.88. Trio: £6.90.

2.10: 1, MADMAN'S MERAGE (D Hotend) 10-1; 2. Ellenbrook 9-2; 3. Somfdar 7-2, 15 ran. 1:-4 fav Arcane Star (Rh), 7, Ind. (M. John-ston), 10te: 1790; 52:20, 52:10, 12:20, DF: 03:140, CSF: 652:20, Tricast: \$185.82, Tho:

2.40: 1. KINGCHEP BOY (P McCabe) 4-5 fav; 2. Zalotto 3-1; 3. Rock latend Line 6-1 5 ran. 11/4, 5 (M Ryan). Totas 5:170; 5:30, 5:80. DF: 52:30. CSF: 52:90, 3.10: 1. RAED (G Duffeld) 3-1; 2. Moonraiding 9-2; 3. Jamaican Flight 20-1 6 ran. 5-2 tav Yarob (4th). 3, 1/2. (Mars A Swindank). Totac 62-70; 6150, 62-70. DF: 6390. CSF: 643-27.

28.27.
3.40: 1. DUKHAN (K Fallon) 10-1; 2. Bathe
In Light 5-2 fax; 3. Asolima 5-1.9 mm, 5, 5.
(E. Alston). Tota: 28.50; 22.70, 22.0, 22.0,
DF: 22.450. CSF: 23.378. Trio: 28.750.
4.10: 1. HONEY STORM (R Perham) 6-4 fax; 2. Bunnisc Own 11-4; 3. Blint Nacida
5-1.9 mm, 11/4, 11/2, (M Charmon). Tota: 22.50;
£100, £140, £160. DF: £2.90. CSF: £5.62. Trio: £5.60.

4.40; 1. WELCOME LU (F Norton) 9-1; 4.40: 1, WELCOME LU (F Norton) 9-1; 2. MoBy Music 5-1; 3. Cabacharge Blue 9-2.7 ren. 2-1 fax Spanish Knot. 6; 3. (L) Har-ris) Tota: £18.70; £780, £170, DF: £58.20, CSP; £48.70. Tricast: £211.79, NR: Grl of My

Dreams. Placepot: £910. Quadpot: £330.

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Lingfield

HYPERION 2.10 Mac's Back 2.40 Falled To Hit 3.10 Fast Franc 3.40 Threadneedle 4.10 Brilliant Red 4.40 Chingachgook

GCHNG: Slow.

STALLS: Inside (except im – outside).

STALLS: Inside (except im – outside).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best in sprints.

Listi-hand, sharp course (Equimack surface).

Course is south-east of lown on B2028. Station scloins course. AD-MISSION: All enclosures 210. CAR PARK CALO SI; rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: 6 L Moore 156 (S174), M Johnston SI-284 (853), R Harmon 46-335 (S174), Lord Huntingdon 39-205 (874), SI-284 (853), R Harmon 46-335 (S174), Lord Huntingdon 39-205 (874), CLEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 68-544 (25%), S Sanders 59-542 (105%), S Whitworth 50-331 (51%), J Quirm 33-619 (53%).

FAVOURITES: 636-2087 (332%).

FAVOURITES: 636-2087 (332%).

BLANCHRITES TIME: Miso's Back (visored, 210), Return of The Marc (visored, 440).

2.10 DORDOGNE MEDIAN AUCTION MAID-EN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 3YO 1m

BETTING: 8-11 Simist, 9-4 Mac's Back, 6-1 Wetkins, 14-1 Minnes

2.40 RHONE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m

- 10 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Mr Frush, 4-1 Falled To HE, 9-2 Ertion, 5-7 Mozambiqua, 6-1 Homestead, 14-1 Meliors, 16-7 Ketti, 20-1 others

J CHEEVER LOOPHOLE AWT COURSE 3.10 RECORD HANDICAP (E) £3,750 3YO 6f

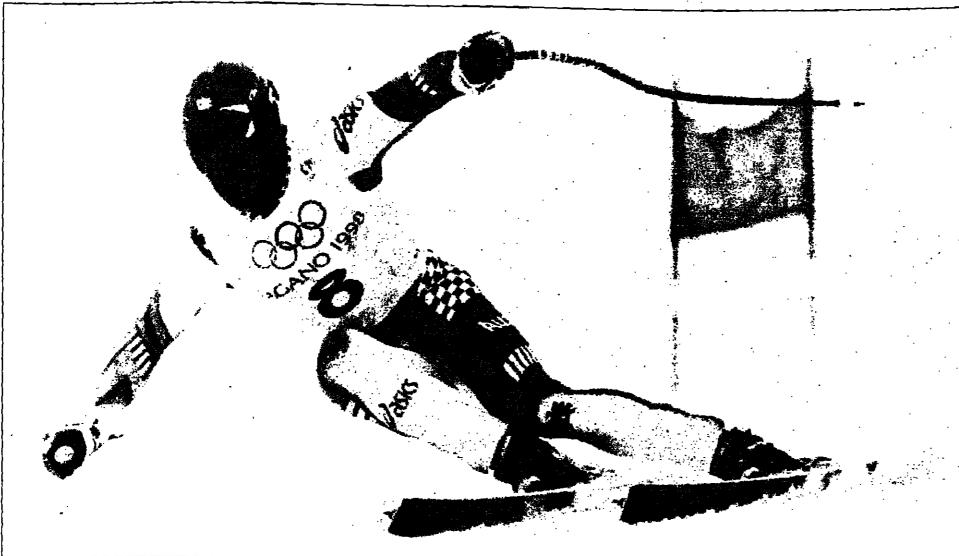
3.40 AWESOME POWER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 2f
1 0/45 THREADNEEDLE (14) (CD) Lord Huningdon 59 (1) Universe 1

4.10 AISNE HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 2f

8 33-53 Bill ADDIE (19) (CD) R Flower 5 7 10 Reiner 2 All Addition 2 Reiner 3 Reiner 4.40 GIRONDE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 4f 150 RETURN OF THE MAC (24) (CD) M R Sosiny 6 9 2

R Shutholine

the state of the s



Comeback king: Hermann Maier put his fall in the downhill behind him to power to victory in the super-G on Mount Karamatsudate yesterday

Fall and rise of the Herminator

played out on the slopes of Mount Karamatsudate vester- Japanese culture. day - the fall and rise of Hermann Maier.

Three days after his fearful tumble in the men's downhill. the Austrian whose awesome size and power have earned him the nickname of Monster, or The Herminator, returned to win the Olympic gold medal which so many people had forecast for him before these

His time of 1min 34.82sec in the super Giant slalom left him more than half a second ahead of his nearest challenger. Didier Cuche of Switzerland, with his Austrian team-mate. Hans Knauss, taking the bronze in the same time.

stances of his crash, it was extraordinary that the 26-yearold former bricklaver was still walking and talking, never mind skiing. Just 17 seconds into the downhill course, he had taken off at the turn which caused problems to a succession of the competitors and smashed through two safety nets before coming to rest, prostrate on his front, 125 metres further on,

If you believed in portents, they were not good. The race

the 18th Winter Olympics was was skiing fourth - a number

The Herminator, however, was unterminated.

Despite sustaining shoulder and knee injuries which caused slalom competition, the man who has dominated this season's World Cup competition

has established the reputation of a man who takes fearful risks, a racer best viewed through half-open fingers. But I have ever had. I walked away even he approached this first from it because the next com-Winter Olympics results and timetable

ALPINE SKIING

THE MOST dramatic story of was on Friday 13th, and Majer Mike Rowbottom reports on the risks which represents death in that paid off for a bricklayer with attitude

race back with an element of petitor had to come down, but

"It was a problem for me mentally," he said. "I needed to him to miss the following day's come through the first gate to in competition again. I wasn't scared to go out there again, but returned yesterday to awesome I was anxious. The crash is replayed worldwide - scares something which keeps going Since breaking into the Aus- over and over in my head-even trian team two years ago, Maier more so now I have won the gold. I do not know how I escaped from it to be able to race again. It was the worst accident and even then I'm not sure."

CROSS-COUNTRY SKING

the doctors spent all day treating me."

But while he was able to face up to a 650-metre descent overcome the barrier of being through 35 gates, the idea of watching his own video nasty something that has been him to death.

"I've not watched it on TV because I can't," he said. "If I do see it, it won't be before the end of the World Cup season -

Yesterday's race will make far easier viewing for him. "It I could not be a fool."

Predicted or not, to win a gold here was a stupendous achievement for a man who only forced his way back into the Austrian team in 1996 after being dropped by the national skiing programme at the age of 15 following a knee injury.

Since he gave up his trade ~ "I laid my last brick on October 26, 1995 at 3pm," he said with a grin - and took up his passion, he has made himself both rich and famous.

But there was lingering resentment over the circum-

BC2: 0745-0845, 1200-1440, 1900-2030

wasn't a perfect race, and I stances of his crash, which wasn't in perfect form," he occurred at a point where the said. It was important to me to International Ski Federation athleticism. But his reaction ski again after the accident but officials had made an alteration to the course.

"I know I made mistakes in the downhill but unlike other skiers I had not received any information about the gate which had been moved or the tailwind which had such an effect. And I would like to know why I was not told. There should have been a practice run before the not have been troubled at that have established him as one of point. The only way I could have the Games' outstanding figures. taken that turn was in a tank."

Seizing their chance to get up to date with the alpine skiing programme, the organisers 5-3 advantage for two minutes women's downhill and the spectively, slashing and holding. good, downhill section of the women's It turned out to be two minutes combined, which will conclude of target practice for the Unit- where the Canadian world today. Both were won by Ger- ed States as they fired in seven many's Katja Seizinger, who be-consecutive shots on goal, Two United States, there were came the first woman to retain hit the posts. Roy, blocking accusations that some of the US an Olympic alpine skiing title. and diving, dealt with the rest.

"It was a really good day for me," Seizinger said. "I really like to the US was already enormous scored the first-ever Olympic these conditions." Not bad coing for someone who said before the Games that the state of the aloine slopes meant that every event would be "a lottery". If that was so, she drew two lucky tickets.

Roy shines as Canada polish off old enemy

Mike Rowbottom reports from Nagano

RON WILSON, coach to the United States ice bockey team. said before these Games that a goaltender could make all the difference in this competition.

On the evidence of yesterday's tumultuous clash between the United States and Canada spot on. And that goaltender is Patrick Roy of Canada.

The man whom many believe is the best in the business faced 31 shots from the best players the United States could muster Bobby Charlton sent off. from the National Hockey League, and saved 30 of them. Four goals from 25 shots took Canada into the quarter-final knock-out stage, starting tomorrow, in pole position.

For the US team, which lost its opening match 3-2 to Sweden. a second defeat was not disastrous - results merely influence the quarter-final draw with all teams qualifying - but in terms of morale, and national pride. the hurt was hard to hide.

If you had to think of Roy in terms of British goalkeepers. your first thought would be Neville Southall. The French-Canadian has the same shambolic look and unlikely when the Americans pulled a goal back with just six minutes remaining was pure Peter Shilton

 be took it as a personal insult. Canada have three top-class Japanese. keepers, and Roy did not make the team two years ago when they reached the inaugural World Cup final and lost to the United States, but his perfor- ter-final match as a result. mances since he arrived here

His pièce de résistance yesterday came in the first period, when the United States had a The psychological damage

when the penalty period ended. and then the two released prisoners immediately combined with the legendary Wayne Gretzky to give Canada the lead.

Sakic's pass appeared to have put Gretzky in with a pay for their behaviour.

shooting opportunity, but The Great One turned possibility into certainty by switching the ball gently to Zamuner for an easy score. It was a sweet cameo from the 37-year-old, who has more points for assists in the NHL than his nearest challenger has in combined points for goals and assists.

He had emphasised his comnt the Big Hat rink, Wilson was mitment to the cause in the opening 10 minutes, when he was given a two-minute penalty for tripping. Gretzky in the sin-bin. As one observer remarked, it was like seeing

As the Americans' frustration grew, they resorted increasingly to the bodycheck and cross-check. For a few moments in the second period, they seemed intent on re-shaping the arena using Canadian hodies to hammer out the boards. But the Canadians, with their buge, baby-face killer captain Eric Lindros, were well able to look after themselves. Throughout Roy, eyes burning through his mask in their intensity, kept up a constant, head-bobbing monologue in his efforts to maintain concentration.

"What," someone asked, "are you saying to yourself out there?" "Nothing really special," replied Roy, who speaks both English and French.

What language was it in

"Today," Roy said, "maybe

The two defeats have spelled out almighty joits to American national pride in any language and the US face a tougher quar-

We know that the road to event - then I and others would with the NHL brigade last week a gold medal probably runs through Canada," Wilson said. On yesterday's evidence, that road is a dead end.

The two nations meet again today, in the gold medal decider in the women's competition. made the most of the good while Joe Sakic and Rob Za- and the portents for a good, weather by running the muner sat in the sin bin for, re- clean sporting game are not

champions were beaten by the players had goaded Canada's forward Danielle Govette, who goal for her country last week, over the recent death of her

The Canadian coach, Shannon Miller, is reportedly threatening to make the Americans

father.

England have worked themselves into a position where they have everything to prove



ALAN WATKINS ON

RUGBY

play Wales have not been than usual of looking foolish.

Women's combined downfill (sistem today):

1 K Secinger (Ger) Imm 2852sec; 2 P Wibern (Swe) 1:2986; 3 R Görschi (Auf) 1:2934; 4 M Eril (Ger) 1:2976; 5 B Obenmoser (Auf) 1:2982; 6 F Massada (Fr) 1:2987; 7 H Gerg (Ger) 1:2992; 8 = S Schuster (Auf), M Dorfmeister (Auf), M Dorfmeister (Auf), M 1:30:10; 10 B Perez (It) 1:30:54

A consensus seems to have \(\bar{a}\) la lanterne. built up over the past week that Matt Perry must be restored in place of Mike Catt; that the

announced. I see it as one of the requirements. There is a case the backs and for fielding an en- ended up with a handful of caps, was distinctly unlucky not to be- Probyn was the same size likefunctions of a columnist to for saying that the England tirely new front row, in addition advise managers and coaches team who went down in Paris to adjusting the back row. what they ought to do rather than were, with a few adjustments to predict what they will do. Ac- such as these, the best currently cordingly I can approach the sub- available. There is equally a case ject without any greater danger for following the traditional French revolutionary policy of

final): 1 D Deshchinsky (Biai) 29904pts; 2 B Swartley (LS) 29706; 3 A Mishtalov (Rus) 24621: 4 E Bergoust (LS) 2255: 5 A Cancik (Car) 22736: 6 S Kraschuk (LM) 22655; 7 J Bean (Car) 22466: 8 N Forbane (Car) 22650; 9 A Gradin (BP) 27794; 30 C Rigerec (Aut) 27251; 11 A Visitenz (CE Rus) 107551: 12 S Forman (Ent.)

Paris, the only players to retain front row must be remodelled their places would be David head prop, with Victor Ubogu Grayson (partly because he the favourite replacement, did not let England down with closely followed by Phil Vick- his kicking, partly because there

Has anyone, by the way, noticed how hookers who are not regular first choices for their clubs are already English internationals? This season Andy Long of Bath and Dorian West This would mean that, of Leicester have been capped, be only a matter of time before to accommodate a new tight- Rees, Jeremy Guscott, Paul Chuter of Saracens, admitted- ground for armchair authorities ly first choice for his club but a very recent one.

Graham Dawe, formerly of in the north. ery, and a few voices raised in is nobody else), Garath Archer. Bath, now of Moseley, was favour of Will Green; and that Lawrence Dallaglio (if fit) and perhaps still is - a better play- Lions last year, Young was the modern game. After all,

unfairness of life. Wales likewise have been wiseacres say - the front row has - that his scrummaging power head. has diminished since his sojourn

AS I write, the England team to Diprose must come in at No 8. case for restoring Adedayo cause his period corresponded Leonard but not quite as good These are the minimum Adebayo and Matt Dawson to to the reign of Brian Moore he as Paul Wallace. Barry Williams against the United States. He For Wales the problem, as it has tainly use Mr Probyn's services must sometimes reflect on the been for several seasons, is at today. loose-bead.

> The selectors first flirted having trouble in this depart- with Andrew Lewis of Cardiff delighted that Colin Charvis is ment. Wisely, they have stuck and then transferred their back. However, he is back at consistently with David Young affections to Christian Loader since his return to Cardiff from of Swansea. For the England judged by their performances in the latter as a substitute. It can rugby league, though the match Lewis is back. I should have preferred an attempt to the call goes forth to George always been the most fertile turn Lyndon Mustoe, also of Cardiff, into a regular loose-

But the argument I do not accept is that, at 5ft 10in and 15 South African front row, Jeff

I am sorry that Craig Quinnell is still omitted but No 6, rather than at No 7. And indeed people speak highly of the player who is to fill the latter position, Martyn Williams.

But the truth is surely that until flankers as a race turn themselves into left-and-right, as wings do, the blind side can-

either Tim Rodber or Tony Neil Back. There is certainly a er than any of these. But be-considered better than Jason Tom Smith, of roughly similar of flankers rather than kept to the corner flag.

Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman four if you include a match come the first-choice hooker. wise; and England could cer- respectively will on Saturday. They, Neil Jenkins' boot and Robert Howley present the

greatest dangers to England. With heart pounding dangerously, I shall be backing them to win at Twickenham, not because Wales have the better backs, as they do, but largely hecause England have worked themselves into a position where they now have everything to prove and will consequently be on edge; whereas Wales have long had nothing to lose. not simply be swapped for the I shall not be at all disappoint-Well, in South Africa for the stone, Lewis is "too small" for open. They are different trades. ed if Jenkins and Arwel Centres have gone the way Thomas make copious use of

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Sri Lanka bowled

over as England A

make history

Cricket

ENGLAND A completed the

first objective of their winter tour

with an emphatic seven-wicket

victory in Moratuwa in the third

unofficial Test here yesterday.

party set out from London in

December aiming to further

their cricketing education and

became the first A team to beat

Sri Lanka in three tours. They

not only achieved their targets,

but excelled in both with a con-

fident and determined perfor-

mance which enabled them to

inflict Sri Lanka's first A team

adrift after dismissing the tourists for 466 yesterday. Sri Lanka

reached 58 for 1 at limch to leave

all but the England dressing-

room preparing for a draw. But

and Ashley Giles, dismissed Sri

Lanka for 168, before cruising to

their victory target of 74 with 21

the Pakistan team manager,

Asad Aziz, reacted with disdain

to suggestions the two players

who were mugged in South

Africa last Wednesday evening

have been less than honest

Speculation has mounted

Meanwhile in South Africa,

balls remaining.

about their plight.

Starting their reply 95 runs

series defeat on home soil.

The inexperienced tour

that Dick was our first choice.

statement to end speculation.

the announcement as I said I

sign one of their youngsters.

manager of Cardiff City. The

Scot was in charge at Ninian Park

Cardiff to promotion from the

Don Hutchison is on the

old Fourth Division in 1988.

Frank Burrows is the new

"I felt some pressure to make

from PSV on 1 July."

Football

By Bryn Palmer

AFTER WEEKS of speculation, David Murray, Rangers' chairman, yesterday revealed the news that most had been expecting - that Dick Advocaat, the former Dutch national manager, will take over team affairs when Walter Smith retires at the end of the season,

Advocaat, who will become the Rangers' first foreign coach, forced the issue by signalling his intention to announce his future plans after guiding his present club, PSV Eindhoven, through a league game with Ajax on

In a short statement, Murray confirmed that the 50-yearold Dutchman was always his would reveal our choice near the first choice to succeed Smith, start of the year and I feel this who is stepping down after is the right time," he said.

poach young players from other

castle, Everion and Aston Villa.

First Division, are alleged to have

breached the Football Associa-

tion's Programme of Excellence

Regulations by attempting to

sign youngsters attached to oth-

er clubs under the scheme. The

clubs have until Thursday to

following a complaint from

Wolves in connection with four

players, while Villa are charged

over alleged approaches to three

West Brom youngsters and one

who was at Charlton. Hull have

complained about Newcastle

trying to sign two of their play-

ers, while United have been

charged over alleged bids for a

Everton have been charged

answer the charges.

Manchester United, New-

Premiership giants accused

of poaching young players

FOUR Premiership clubs have Stockport. Shrewsbury have also

been charged with trying to accused Wolves of attempting to

together with Wolves of the club from 1986 to 1989, leading

leading Rangers to six of their nine successive Scottish titles. Advocaat, who led the Dutch to the quarter-finals of "I am delighted that Dick the World Cup in 1994, has Advocaat, one of the game's since won the Dutch champimost respected coaches, has accepted the position of manager was faced with the prospect of Rangers," Murray said. several key players leaving the "Over the past few weeks we

interviewed a number of possible Although his deal in Eindcandidates for this position and from this it became quite clear hoven ran until the middle of 1999. Advocaat exercised a clause in his contract that "As already stated, Walter allowed him to annul the agree-Smith will continue to manage ment should he receive a betthe club until the arrival of Dick ter offer elsewhere.

club at the end of the season.

He said: "I have a very clear Murray, who was not prevision of the direction I wish to pared to reveal details of the take the club and I look forward length or value of the contract. to working with everyone at said he felt obliged to make a Rangers to ensure that direction brings even more success to this great club '

Advocaat's arrival at Ibrox means Dutchmen will be guiding the attempts of both the main Glasgow clubs in their search for continental success. Advocaat's friend and former colleague, Wim Jansen, is head coach at Celtic.

While Rangers are chasing a record 10th successive title, their performances in Europe - with a couple of notable exceptions - have been disappointing. Earlier this season they suffered the indignity of being knocked out of both the Cup early on, and the vicechairman, Donald Findlay, was quick to point out this was another factor in the choice of

verge of joining Everton, in time Advocaat. to face his former club Liver-"He is a man with enormous pool in the Merseyside derby at experience in Europe and I the weekend. Hutchison is think the Rangers supporters switching from Sheffield Unitshould be very excited about him ed with a small cash adjustment, bringing that experience to bear with the young defender Jon on our game from a European standpoint," Findlay said. O'Connor going the other way.

"He regards Rangers as a Bryan Gunn, who has lost his first-team place at Norwich to great club and a great challenge, Andy Marshall, is joining and I think he appreciates that Hibernian on loan for the rest for a club of our size, our success rate in Europe in recent ICI, which has sold off a years has not been acceptable. number of its businesses in re-He is looking forward to trying cent months, is to sell its 25 per to improve that as well as mainplayer each from Crewe and cent share in Middlesbrough. taining domestic success."



Sybase Open in San Jose, California, yesterday

being knocked out of both the Champions' Cup and the Uefa Agassi storms past Sampras

Tennis

ANDRE AGASSI demonstrated a fresh thirst for tennis when he beat the world No 1. Pete Sampras, 6-2, 6-4 in San Jose, California. Agassi captured his first title in 18 months with a brilliant display of serves, returns of serves and groundstrokes at the Sybase Open. He vowed after the match that he was taking aim at the No 1 ranking this year and looking to fight it out with Sam-

pras in the French Open final. Britain's No 1, Greg Rusedski, has dropped one place to No 9 in the latest world rankings, but Tim Henman, the No 2, climbed one place to 17th despite three Newcastle in April.

successive first-round defeats. Rusedski's ranking is his lowest since he first moved into the top 10 in October after winning the Swiss Indoor Championship, but his drop came because he did not play last week.

Henman, by contrast, has been in poor form but had no points to defend last week. He moved up a place because Thomas Muster dropped from Britain will play Ukraine in

Group One of the Euro-African Zone of the Davis Cup for the second successive year when Probst, 6-3 6-1.

the two countries meet in

Ukraine beat Denmark 3-2 in Kiev over the weekend to qualify for this second-round tie, which Britain must win to progress to the World Group Qualifying round in Septem-

Former world No 1 Steffi Graf celebrated her comeback eight months after a knee operation with a straight-sets win in the first round of the WTA doubles tournament in Hanover.

bara Rittner, beat their compatriots, Meike Babel and Wiltrud

Graf and her partner, Bar-

Stuart Alexander reports from Auckland THE 12-strong, all-woman crew

of EF Education were dealt a second hammer blow on the Whitbread Round the World Race vesterday when their mast buck-

to the rigging which had left them at the back of the nine-boat fleet 1,400 miles behind the leader and sister yacht, EF Language, the latest setback raises serious doubts about whether to an end for the group chasing rupted by bad weather, that he they can reach Brazil in time to Paul Cayard and EF Language. start the sixth leg to Fort Laud

at Ushuaia near Cape Horn.

and Saqlain Mushtaq, who said they were attacked by two men who leapt from a car as they were walking towards shops close to their hotel in a wealthy Johannesburg suburb, may have acquired their injuries elsewhere. The attack forced the start of the first Test against South

steadily that Moharomad Akram

Africa to be delayed from Friday to Saturday. It also prompted waves of condemnation from politicans and sports officials and a promise that security for the touring team would be stepped up. Johannesburg police, how-

ever, have criticised the players for being "unco-operative" and this has fuelled the rumours there may be another story.

Although police spokesmen refuse to confirm the subject of their investigations, they would not deny that a team of officers have talked with the management and staff of a late-night club close to the team hotel.

England A, spearheaded by the spin pairing of Dean Cosker The former Australia captain Allan Border became a member of the national selection panel yesterday. Border has been appointed alongside the chairman. Trevor Hohns, and Andrew Hilditch. He replaces Steve Bernard, who was named as Australian team manager last

England A scoreboard, Sporting Digest

EF Education loses mast in heavy seas

Sailing

led and crashed on to the deck.

Already crippled by damage erdale, which starts on 14 March. took them all round the noto-

Guillou nor any of her crew, who were left trying to retrieve the tangle of heavy rig in difficult southern ocean conditions steep waves, strong winds and

extreme cold - were injured. Their progress will now be further hampered by the small sail area that they will be able to carry on a jury rig and they do not have enough fuel to motor continuously for the week it would take to reach port

quiry by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association for comments he and his manager, lan Doyle, allegadly made to the press.

REGAL SCOTTISH OPEN (Aberdeen)

Second round: N Foulds (Eng) bt D Finbow (Eng) 5-2 M Campbel (Sco) bt A Mc-Manus (Sco) 5-3: D Dale (Mai) bt D Harold (Eng) 5-3; T Murphy (Mr) bt N Pearce (Eng) 5-4; P Lines (Eng) bt M Williams (Mai) 5-3; S Hendry (Sco) bt L Griffin (Eng) 5-4; J Higgins (Sco) bt T Chappel (Wai) 5-1

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CHAMPI

CONSTRP (Antwerp) Strigies, first round: G Raoux (Pr) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7-8 5-7 5-2; M Lanson (Swe) bt M Goeller (Ger) 8-2 8-1; J Terango (US) bt D Norman (Bet) 3-8 6-4 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt A Boelsch (Pr) 6-2 7-8.

Lwr Upp on on

Tennis

Extra fuel may have to be dropped to them from the air. Chessie Racing may also

need help from the sky because they cannot start the main engine which powers their water-maker. The food on the Whitbread boats is mainly dehydrated and is useless without water. The crew are being rationed to three cups a day. We are looking for land and sailing hard to shorten the time of our thirst," the watch captain,

Dave Scott, reported. The frustration of being becaimed at Cape Horn came Neither skipper Christine rious landmark, with Gunnar Krantz reclaiming second place in Swedish Match and Grant Dalton taking Merit Cup up to third, just three miles behind. Cayard, meanwhile, was 274 miles ahead, making 12 knots.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
(Bith leg, 8,670 miles, Auckland, NZ, to
Sao Sebastino, Bra): 1 EF Language
(Swe) P Cayard 1877 miles to finish; 2
Swedish Maich (Swe) G Krantz 27 miles behind; 3 Merit Cup (Moneco) G Dalton +277,
4 Toshiba (US) P Standbridge 283; 5 Innovation Kweemer (Nor) K Frostad +288; 6
Brunel Sunergy (Neth) R Heiner +40; 7
Chessie Racing (US) D Smith +444; 8 Sik
Cut (GB) L Smith +1013; 9 EF Education
(Swe) C Guilou +1454.

Hull and Sheffield draw giant-killers

Rugby League

THE two Cumbrian amateur sides who made history by eaching the last 16 have been rewarded with fifth round ties against Super League opposition it the hard way," Castleford's in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Elienborough, who beat Hunslet in the last round, have a trip to Hull, while Egremont, who whitewashed Workington Town - a Super League side themselves just 18 months ago - face Sheffield Eagles.

There are some heavyweight confrontations elsewhere, with

Sporting Digest

Badminton
Men's World Team Champtonship
(Thomas Cup) European qualitying tourframent (Sandelford, Nor) Group E: Friend
'4 Czech Regulic 1; Quaternala 5 Cyprus
'3 Group H: Soan 5 Meaco 0; Switzerland
3 Austra 2. Asian qualitying tournament
(Pasig City, Phill): Group A: Australa 3 km
2:Sngapore 4 Philippines 1. Group B: India.
4 New Zesland 1. Group C: Sri Larka 3
Meanmar 2.

NBA: Marm 116 Toronto 96: Houston 90 LA Lakers 38: Mirruesota 105 Dellas 98 (cd): Chicago 99 Defroit 80; Golden State 101 Boston 57: New York 102 Cleveland 91; Sacramento 88 Washington 88; Portland 117

THIRD A TEST
(Moratuwe, final day of four)
Sn Lanks A won loss
SRI LANKA A - First tunings 371 (U.C.
Hathusrighe 90. G P Wickremasinghe 76ma,
N Bandartileke 61; J Omtond 4-76.

Badminton

Basketball

to neighbours Warrington and Flatt tomorrow. Castleford, victorious at Leeds on Saturday, playing host to

of the season.

the last two seasons. "If we are going to Wembley, it looks like we'll have to do coach, Stuart Raper, said.

There is another all-Super League meeting at the London Broncos, where Halifax are the Wigan even firmer favourites to recover the trophy they once made their own. They are away to the winners of the Dewsbury-Lancashire Lynx tie, which is to

Bowling: Holloeke 8-0-17-0; Ormand 7:-1-45-1; Ealham 5-3-8-0; Gles 243-12-43-5; Coster 22-8-45-3; Meddy 1-0-4-0.

SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings 364 (M V Boucher 78, P L Symcox 106).

FIRST TEST (Johannesbury, third day) Paidstan won loss

St Helens have reacted calmly to news from Australia Bradford, the beaten finalists for that their new signing, Damien Smith, was thrown out of his previous club, St George, for turning up for training under the influence not of drink but recreational drugs.

"We were already aware of the disciplinary measures and he comes to us with a clean sheet." visitors, all of which makes said Saints' chief executive, David Howes. Smith is due to arrive, complete with work permit, within three weeks.

Meanwhile, the player he replaces on Saints' overseas ros-

SUPERSPORT SERIES (Final day of four): Cape Town: Gropusiand West 239 and 216 (MI Galley 88; P R Adama 7-89); Western Province 500 for 6 dec (H D Ackermen 7A, E O Smorts 57no, A G Prince 80). Western Province won by an hunings and 45

Cycling
TOUR OF ANDALLICIA Second stage
(214.2km, San Jose de la Rinconda to
Mataga): 1 T Steels (Bd) Mapel-Bricoti 5ft
34min 17sec; 2 E zabel (Gen) Telelom; 3 R
McEwan (Aus) Radobank; 4 G Hincaple (US)
US Postal Service; 5 J Plancteert (Bel) Lotto; 5 L Mchaelsen (Den) TVM; 7 N Mattan
(Bel) Mapel-Bricobi; 8 A Edn (Spi) Kelms; 9
J Hunt (GB) Banesto; 10 D Ebenbarita
(Spein) CNCE all same time. Overall standlarge: 1 McEwan 9th 36min 56eer; 8 standlarge: 1 McEwan 9th 36min 56eer; 8 Hunt;
7 C Capalle (Fr) Colde; 8 M van der Wolf
(Neth) Isam Garotstainer; 9 U Streberriz (Sp)
Euskeltel-Eustrad; 10 D Ebenbarita all s/t.

Football
Steve Davis, the Bamsley defender, has moved to Oxford United on a moratris loan while Dearen Purse, the Oxford central defender, has completed his player-plus cash move to Birmingham City, with striker Kevin Francis moving in the opposite direction. Birmingham have peld Oxford 2500,000 in cash, plus Francis who has been valued at £100,000.

SOUTH AFRICAN PGA (Johannesburg) Leading finst-round scores (SA unless stated); 271 T. Johnstone (Zm) 88 84 67 72. 273 E Ba 69 69 66 62 275 N Price (Zm) 71 67 68 68; R Goosen 71 70 69 65 276 S Durlep (US) 69 66 71 70, 277 P Price (GB)

Cycling

Football

the holders, St Helens, at home be re-played at New Crown ter, Jamie Olejnik, is to rejoin one of his previous clubs, Manfy. Olejnik failed to get a work permit, but might still join Saints next year.

Sheffield Eagles are today announcing the signing of the Great Britain prop, Steve Molloy, who has been involved in a long-running battle to leave Featherstone Rovers.

Another Great Britain prop, Leeds' Barrie McDermott, has denied a rift with the club's new coach, Graham Murray, after being substituted only 18 minutes after coming on to the field in the Challenge Cup defeat by Castleford on Saturday.

69 71 66 71. 279 A Wall (GB) 71 72 67 69. 281 A Forsbrand (Swe) 68 70 72 71 282 M Gronberg (Swe) 73 68 71 70. 283 M McNuty (Zm) 71 47 0 88; 5 van Vuuren 70 72 67 74; 1 CBs (US) 69 69 73 72; R Muntz (Neth) 72 67 72 72; A McLandy 72 71 70 70; B Vaughar (US) 75 69 71 69. 284 70 72; M Vaughar (US) 75 69 71 69. 284 70 72; M MacKenzie (GB) 74 68 70 72; N Herning 72 72 68 72; B Oredge (GB) 59 72 72 71; D Gammon 71 72 72 69; G Chalmers (Aus) 74 70 69 71 HAWAJAN OPEN (Honolutu) Leading fi-

70 89 71.

HAWARIAN OPEN (Honolulu) Leading Rnal-round scores (US unless statud): 280
J Huston 63 85 86 88, 267 T Watton 67 64
70 88. 289 T Dodds (SA) 65 70 65 88, 289
M Reid 85 88 89 87; 8 Ouigley 68 68 67 68;
G Kraft 69 67 83 70, 270 R W Eales 72 63
70 65; S Stricker 66 67 88 69; F Lichtiter 68
64 86 72, 271; S Jones 68 70 67 66; P
Lacobesin 69 66 67 67; L Maz 71 86 66 68;
D Watdorf 69 65 67 70; B Chernbles 68 67
87 70, 272 R Cochran 70 67 67 68; K Perry 67 67 68 70; J D Blake 70 67 65 70;
Kendell 67 53 70 72; R Gernes 68 67 65 72.

ry 57 67 68 70; J D Biske 70 67 65 70; S Kendal 67 63 70 75; R Gamez 88 67 65 72; US LPGA LOS ANGELES WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP Leading final-round acores (US unless stated; play shortaned by raint; 141 D Eggsing 72 89; H Kobayashi (Japan) 67 74; Eggsing won at fist play-off hole), 142 G Schreyer 72 70; K Webb (Aus) 72 (1; C Crosby 70 72 143 C Figg-Currier 72 89; S Hamila 72 71; V Fergon 72 71; E Crosby 70 72 143 C Figg-Currier 74 69; S Hamila 72 71; V Fergon 72 71; N Lopez 71 72; A Soenstam (Swe) 71 72; N Lopez 71 72; H Alfredison (Swe) 71 73; J Moode (GB) 72 73; S H Alfredison (Swe) 71 73; J Moode (GB) 73 78; C Michilian (GB) 72 71; S 151 H Dobson (GB) 75 78; C Michilian (GB) 72 71; S 153 K Marshed (GB) 79 74; C Michilian (GB) 72 71; S L Halchey (GB) 77 78.

LEADING WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1 T Woods 12 (77 98) 153; 4 C Montgomeric (GE) 922; 5 D Love III 93; 8 N Pitce (Zm) 810; 7 P Michelson 875; 8 M Ozsid (Japan) 805; 9 T Lehman 750; 10 S Elsington

Norman under fire for no-show

GREG NORMAN was critiish his final round of the South African PGA championship.

Officials later confirmed his disqualification after the Australian world No 2, who was paid \$300,000 (£187,000) to appear in the European co-sanctioned event, failed to arrive yesterday morning to complete his fourth and final round. He was eightunder-par after nine holes and in line for a top-10 finish.

The double British Open champion told tournament officials after the close of Sun-

(Aus) 705; 11 D Duval 698; 12 J Leonard 683; 13 M O'Meara 678; 14 T Watson 645; 15 B Faxon 640; 16 V Singh (Fij) 623; 17 S Hoch 622; 18 N Falco (GB) 612; 19 J Parnevik (Swe) 598; 20 F Couples 577.

As the National League clubs' man-agers and coaches meet this week to consider ways of improving the League structures to provide a more

purposeful environment to promote England's élite players, the battle for National League status warms up. One such meeting took place at Eastcote on Saturday where the home side were

Hockey

day's play, which was interdid not intend to continue his cised yesterday for failing to fin- round because of pressing engagements in the US. He left the country on Sunday night.

"I'm disappointed in Greg's decision not to conclude his final round. I consider his conduct injurious to the Southern Africa tour," the commissioner, Arnold Mentz, said.

Zimbabwe's Tony Johnstone, the eventual tournament winner, said he was surprised at Norman's decision: "I wouldn't have expected Greg to leave. I think that [\$300,000] is worth an extra day.'

Wycombe continued their territorial ad-

vantage with goals from Andy Burroughs and Gavin Elliot to strare the points.

points.

The late decision by the English Hock-ey Association to hold a Four Nations' Tournament at Southgate on 17 to 19 April has caused a clash with the County Champlonship, which starts the same weekend. Less than 15 miles across London, Middlesex are staging one of the A Division pools at Chlawick and are upset with the arrangement. Maurice Kittrell, the Middlesex pre-student, said yesterday: "It seems to be incredible that the EHA carnot work in conjunction with the counties. News

in conjunction with the counties. News

of the fournament first appeared in the media and there has still been no of-ficial communication."

TODAY'S NUMBER

92,000

The number of spectators who watched Mexico beat the United States 1-0 in the final of the Concacacaf Gold Cup in Los Angeles on Sunday night. Luis Hernandez headed the only goal to give Mexico their third straight title. Brazil beat Jamaica 1-0 in the third-place play-off.

on Saturday where the home side were held to a 2-2 draw by High Wycombe in a game in which nerves and concentration lapses ruled the day. East-cote, who have led the ESL South Pramier for most of the season, were leading 2-0 at the interval against the run of play. Samin Samuel and Adrian Carter taking advantage to score. FABER WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX (Hen-nover, Ger) Singles, first round: B Ritner (Ger) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 4-6 7-6; B Schett (Auri) bt F Labet (Arg) 7-5 6-1 Stephen Hendry, the world No 1, has been called before a disciplinary in-SNOW REPORTS

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MATONWIDE FOUTBLE POTTERS TO INVISION
Bury v Stoke (7.45)
Chartten v GPR (7.45)
Crewe v Straingham (7.45)
Notion Formet v Huddensfield (7.45)
Port Vale v Swindon (7.45)
Portsmouth v Stockport (7.45)
Sunderland v Reading (7.45) THIRD DIVISION Cardiff v Mansfield

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHELD NORTHERN SECTION SEMI-FINALS Borniey v Presion (7.45) ______ Griesby v Blackpool (7.45) _____ SOUTHERN SECTION SEMI-FINALS mouth v Luton (7.45) ----rough v Walsali (7.45) ----GM VALIDHALL CONFERENCE Stalybridge v Getscheed (7.45)

PRINCES V MOUNTAIN (7.45) SECOND DIVISION

Steinhousemuir v Brechair
THIRD Drivision:
East Stiring v Dumberton
RYMAN LEAGUE Preruler Division: Centralition v St. Albaris: Heybridgs v Gravesend
A Northfleet; Walton & Hersinem v Purfleet
(745). First Division: Billericay v Maldenhead Urd; Woldinham v Charlesy, Second
Division: Barstead v Northwood; Carvey
island v Metropotten Police; Egham v
Marlow; Horsham v Tibury; Wealdstone v

Windsor & Eton. Third Division: Dorking v Aveley, Full Members Cup third round: Borsteam Wood v Usbridga. Fourth round: Carshapino v Leepterhead; Hendon v Degenhern & Redbridge; Staines v Carshailon v Leatherhage; hendon v Degenham & Redbridge; Staines v Beangstoke.

INREGNID LEAGUE Premier Division: Leigh RM v Colwyn Bay, Laegue Cup-fourth round: Blyth Spartans v Marine; Chorley v Wirestond. Untilfile First Division: Cup third round: Belper v Astron: Stocke-bridge PS v Tratford.

DR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bath v Habeowen (745), Southern Division: Bath v Habeowen (745), Southern Division: Santiery v Waston-super-Marie. Dr Martensa Cup tourth-round replay: Baston v Moor Green (745).

Green (7/45).
WINSTONE EAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Herne Bay v Swenley Furness; Hythe v Cray Wanderses; Remegate v Sheppey; Tharmesmead v Faversham.
UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE First Divisions; Pagnern v Arundel; Portfield v Wick, John O'Flera League Cup third round: Ringmer v Salintage.

SCREWRX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Caine v Melisham; Creppenham v Brisington; Pauton v Taunton. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Nourmerland CALOR COUNTY ANTRUM SHIELD Fine!: Linkeld v Grussders (at The Ovel, Bellest). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Sterrock Rovers v Drogheda Utd (7/45).

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP Final, first leg: Sigo Rovers v Shel-bourne (70). PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Notice County + Oldham (70), Second Division: Bradford + Barratay (70). THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fourthround replay: Leads v Middlesbrough. Other sports SNOOKER: Scottish Open (Aberdeen).

Calls to 0897 numbers cost 50p/min; to 08975 numbers £1/min at all times. Helpline 0990 133 345

Third Test: Openers see off West Indies' initial onslaught but Crawley's unnecessary run-out precipitates familiar sense of uncertainty

England hesitate in face of history

Rain intervenes as tourists lose momentum after Stewart heroics

Derek Pringle reports from Port of Spain

West Indies 159 & 210 England 145 & 170-4

FOR the second time in a week, England were hesitating over beating the West Indies here at the Queen's Park Oval. Needing 225 to win they appeared to be coasting to victory after a century opening stand between Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart. However, two vital wickets by Courtney Walsh and another by Carl Hooper meant that England were 170 for 4 when heavy rain stopped play on the stroke of tea.

The West Indies have not lost a game on this ground since Pakistan beat them 21 years ago. After a morning that was all England that record began to look in jeopardy. Yet, from long leg. Next ball, with as England are acutely aware. particularly the six current players who played in the débacle here four years ago when England were dismissed for 46 in the last innings of the match, you allow the West Indies through the front door at your peril.

The main reason this has been a low scoring match is that an awful lot of batsmen on both sides have gifted their wickets away with appalling shots and decisions. But although Atherton, Stewart and Nasser Hussain could do little over their dis-West Indies' waning belief

flooding back with a vengeance. Before Crawley embarked were 144 for 1. Thirteen overs later they were 168 for 4, with Ambrose and Walsh, as well as the gremlins of Port of Spain. gnawing at their heels. But if rain brought time for England to regroup, it allowed Walsh and Ambrose to rest. With the new ball due soon and the pitch

WEST INDIES - First innings 159 (A C Fraser 5-40, A R Caddick 5-67).

(234 min, 173 balls, 3 fours)
A J Stewart c D Williams b Walsh ...
(300 min, 245 balls, 8 fours)
J P Crawley run out (Benjaran-D Williams)
TV replay)

(30 min. 20 balls)

N Hussam low b Hooper (63 min, 27 bells, 1 four)

ENGLAND - First Irmings 145 (C E L Ambrose 5-25).

QUEEN'S PARK OVAL SCOREBOARD

a place for faint hearted bats-

A few hours earlier, it had all looked very different and with two days to score the 173 runs needed at the start of play, there was no need to rush. The first hour's play yielded 36 runs, most of them to Stewart, However, small totals are sometimes flattered by the cautious approach and the England team and their supporters were grateful when Stewart, after a shaky start, began to pierce the ringed field set by the West Indies captain, Brian Lara.

Stewart is at his best with pace on the ball and he began to cut loose soon after England's first scare of the morning when Atherton, scampering back for a second run, narrowly beat Nixon McLean's superb return Atherton on 39, the West Indies should have broken through when he cut Walsh straight to Stuart Williams in the gully, who spilled a difficult chance.

By rights it should have been the wicket that broke the drought and the drop visibly affected the West Indies' morale. Like for England, it has been the bowlers closer to the end than the middle of their careers who have taken the majority of the wickets so far. The two back-to-back Tests here in Trinidad have taken missals, the same could not be their toll and although the spirsaid of John Crawley, whose it would have been willing after foolish run-out brought the a wicketless first session, the bodies would not have been.

Resolve, even for experienced campaigners like Walsh on his fatal second run England and Ambrose, has its breaking sion, the odds shifted when, point and instead of them perhaps reflecting on their storming performance here four years have begun to wander back to their more recent and less savoury experiences in Karachi and Peshawar.

However, perhaps with one

Felt: 1-129 (Atherton); 2-145 (Crawley); 3-152 (Stawart); 4-168 (Hussain).

De (oleman), Weish 25-5-54-2; Am-use 21-6-35-0; Benjamin 11-3-24-0 (nb2); V ann 4-0-17-0; Adams 6-3-5-0 (nb1);

rese: Third day: 50: 94 min, 214 over

Progress: Third day: 50: 94 min, 214 overs. Bad light stopped play at 554pm - okase 52-0 (Atherton 30, Stewart 14) 25 overs. Fourth day: 100: 183 min, 434 overs. Rain stopped play at 1158am - lunch taken at 122-0 (Atherton 47, Stewart 64) 53 overs. 150: 287 min, 695 overs. Tea: 170-4 (Thorpe 9, Butchter 1) 81 overs. Stewart's 50: 183 mm. 142 balls. 6 fours.

Total (for 4, 81 overs)

greening up under the covers, last hurrah in mind after lunch. Queen's Park was certainly not which had been brought forward by a brisk shower, Lara alternated his two senior bowlers an over at a time from

the Pavilion End. It is a ploy that Lara used in Perth last winter in 100C heat while Walsh, the captain, was off the field. Whatever his reasons this time the gambit worked with Walsh finding the edge of Atherton's bat with a beauty that bounced and left the England captain off the pitch.

Before this innings, Atherton had not passed 50 in his last. 12 innings. That number has now risen to 13, though his gritty 49 was worth double that in the circumstances.

With one Manchester Grammar old boy being replaced by another you would have thought that the cerebral side of chasing this target would have been in good hands.

But pressure can do strange things to the coolest of minds and with John Crawley playing for glory as well as his place in the next Test, the combination proved lethal. He was run out going for a second that was never there by Kenny Benjamin, running round from extra cover. Mind you, with TV replays angles blocked by static fielders, the decision to give Crawley out, although probably the correct one, was based on guesswork, which is what the technology is surely meant to eradicate.

While Stewart remained, however. England were still favourites. But in keeping with this incredible Test match, where the upper hand has changed sides almost by the seseight runs later, Walsh had the England opener caught behind off a similar ball to the one that had done for his captain.

It was an incredible piece of resilience by Walsh who four balls before getting Stewart, had seen Hooper spill him at slip. To come back so soon after such a disappointment was a testament to the bowler's heart, which as captain had been broken by this side recently

in Pakistan. But if that brought the home crowd to their feet for the first time, they were up again not long after when Hussain, who just having struck Hooper back over his head for four, was out to a grubber from the same bowler that struck him below the bootlaces. It was a ball that will have preyed on all those waiting their turn in the dressing-room.

England A make history, page 27

Slips that show the naked truth about Lara's bowling options

ON THIS heavily cracked pitch. which is well grassed in places and bare in others, it seemed almost certain it would be the plan. When Atherton and Stew-West Indies four fast bowlers art survived the opening assault who would take them to victo- a more astute captain might at ry. A week ago, England were that point have given Hooper a looking to their seamers to win the second Test match for them pened then.

with Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose and the West Indies went about their business as if it had been ordained that these two would start England's downfall. It was almost as if they were going through the motions. Not only did they fail to take wickers, however, but the runs began to come rather too freely for Lara's liking.

He found himself facing the age old dilemma. While it was imperative he took wickets, he also had to make sure that too many runs were not given away. It is never easy to get the balance just right. Lara showed that he understood the problem though when, right from the start, he used a third man and a fine leg.

This meant that all he could find for his illustrious pair of opening bowlers was three slips. When after 10 overs Kenny Waish, he was given only one Stewart, who had gone for his strokes from the start.

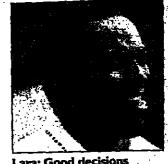
Lara alternated his four fast wicket would not fall. He kept them on and looked increasingly tamer in a circus who suddenton bluour a perform for him. He did not know what to do.

When he did not turn to Carl looked dangerous whenever he has been used in Port of Spain. it was further evidence that he was working to a pre-arranged HENRY BLOFELD

short spell. The batsmen would have been anticipating a con-- and we all know what hap- stant barrage from the fast bowlers and might have found Brian Lara started the day it difficult to retune their thinking.

Hooper has dismissed three good batsmen in this series -Graham Thorpe twice and Stewart - and his captain should have shown greater trust in him now.

When he finally threw the ball to Hooper he had time for only four overs before rain started the lunch interval five



Lara: Good decisions

minutes early and in those overs Benjamin took over from he caused both batsmen problems and Atherton gave a techslip when he bowled at Alec nical chance to forward short leg when he tried to drive him over midwicket.

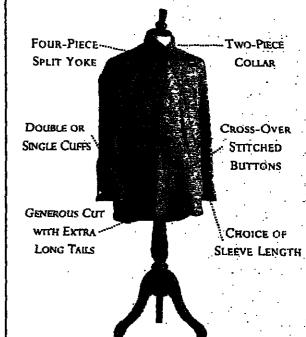
Twenty years ago, Clive bowlers but still that elusive first Lloyd, the present West Indies team manager, would have begun with Michael Marshall surprised as if he were a lion and Michael Holding and then, without thinking, would have brought on Joel Garner and Colin Croft.

On this sort of pitch there would have been no need for Hooper, whose off-breaks have anyone else. The present West Indian pace is not in the same class and it calls for more imaginative captaincy to winkle sides out.

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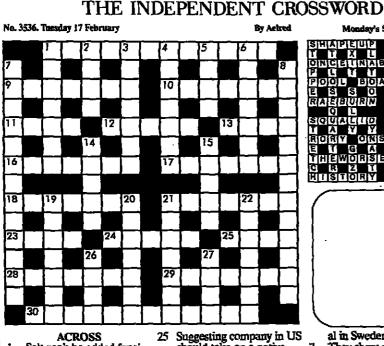
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(35 mm, 27 balls, 1 four) M A Butcher not out (6 mm, 8 ball) Umpires: D B Hair and E Nichols. TV Replay Umpire: C E Cumberba Match Referee: B N Jarmen.

rant's 50: 183 mm, 142 balls, 6 fours



- Sait can't be added fancifully at the wrong time(12) Fiery GI no use for service 28
- 10 Doting worker's sweet (7) 11 Fat, heartless landowner 12 Wife backed vehicle to
- take on a kilo of seaweed 13 Record day is cold (4) 16 Take too long on delivery
- round (7) 17 Positive in ceremony, giving witty answer (7)
 18 Hard to starve if it's yield-
- 21 Pedestrian could find
- Capri so (7) help generally (4) Try finding 11 more like
- Suggesting company in US should take on a native South American (4) In such teaching you'd
- have instinctive knowledge It could prevent sound reaching listeners on both sides of piano (7) Academic types securing agreement about a right
- for long tenure? (7.5) DOWN Verne's upset after his article is seen to demoralise
- Hose could go into it (4) A group of players hurried to be fourth? (4-3)
- Colonel, say, is not skating with king? (7) Spots name adopted by ex-They introduce heavy met-
- al in Sweden (4-3) They show good state of NHS finances? (5,2,6) Maybe cost a thousand, formerly with cash, getting to share place? (5,8) Athenian could be in good odour? (5)
- 15 Presently controlling pow er of golf club (5) Pole joins outfit to meet old composer (7)
 20 See the sights with desire to return for old contest
- Children are noscy about nothing when given information (7) Ring America after having to cancel (7)
- 26 Animal from farm in Kentucky (4) Callas, say, lost head in a bit of opera (4)

Negri's double vision of a bright future with Rangers

Football

By Simon Buckland

MARCO NEGRI says he is still experiencing "flashing" across his damaged eye and has been warned it could stay with him for vears to come.

The Rangers striker sustained the injury last month durng a squash game with his fellow Italian, Sergio Porrini, and was out of action for more than four weeks. His return to action was delayed by the need for permission to head the ball again because of his impaired vision. and Negri feared for his career.

Having been assured by experts he can continue, the 27year-old has set his sights on a Scottish League and Cup double. The immediate aim is victory tonight at home to Motherwell to secure a Cup quarter-final again is clear and he is determined to carry on regardless with his record of 34 goals since joining last summer from Perugia.

"My eye is getting better," he said. "I keep seeing a flashing across it yet I have been assured this is normal. According to the specialists this is not dangerous and other people with the injury have seen flashing for up to five years afterwards.

"It was a frustrating injury and I was disappointed and I suppose a little bit down when I had to stay at home resting in bed. There I was enjoying a game of squash with Sergio but it proved too dangerous. No more squash for me. That is the last time,

"I was concerned it might be serious and I thought about my career and about Rangers. The club is always the most important thing for me, firstly to win the league and hopefully the Cup. Who scores doesn't matter.

The prospect of Negri finding the scoresheet tonight has been boosted by the return of his main supplier, Brian Laudrup, place. Negri's relief at playing . The Dane was left out by Walter Smith last week after details were made public from Chelsea about Laudrup meeting Gianluca Vialli in midweek.

Smith's main selection problem for tonight is who to play instead of the suspended Porrini, with Craig Moore and Gordan Petric his main options. Motherwell will again look to

their veteran front pairing of Owen Coyle and Tommy Coyne to produce their best, and they are confident of delivering. "We seem to get more joy

against the Old Firm than most and hopefully we can capitalise on that." Coyle said. "We know it is a difficult tie, but it is a place everyone wants to play. If you can't enjoy Ibrox, there is not much point in playing the game."

In tonight's other replay, Dundee take on Ross County at Dens Park with the home manager Jocky Scott saying Dariusz Adamczuk will return to the starting line-up.

"He had been suspended the week before and I wanted to keep a winning team unchanged," Scott said. "But he made a big difference on Saturday, and he will return."

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